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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the nomination of attorney Ramon Quichocho to be a Superior Court judge?

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INSIDE

WORLD

Syria says Bashar Assad will remain president until 2014.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Here are a list of high-tech gifts to update the low-tech dad.

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LIFE & STYLE

Courteney Cox and David Arquette have finalized their divorce.

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'Be careful on Obamacare'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Improved status for aliens 'worth the effort, political risk'
» Insurance firms warn of premium hikes, ask for 2-year delay in market reforms

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) cautioned yesterday against rushing into exempting the CNMI from some of the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare, because just as it presents some concerns, it has also guaranteed $150 million in Medicaid funding between July 2011 and end of 2019 and lower matching rate, among other things.

While other requirements do not apply, some do, including the so-called market reforms.

Sablan said that may mean trouble for the insurance industry and everyone who buys insurance.

"But we have millions in new federal money—for the Kagman Community Health Center, prevention programs, rate regulation, and to help seniors pay for drugs. Most importantly, we have $109 million in new Medicaid money, and, arguably, it's keeping the hospital open. All because of the Affordable Care Act. There may be some problems ahead. But there is also a lot to be very, very grateful for," Sablan told members and guests of the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter at its meeting at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday.

Sablan, the guest speaker at the SHRM meeting, also said that pushing for improved immigration status for long-term

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Buckingham files waiver of extradition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former attorney General Edward T. Buckingham yesterday signed a waiver of extradition to support his request to allow him to go back to Colorado.

As this developed, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo placed under advisement Buckingham's request to be allowed to leave the CNMI. The judge also set the trial of the 64-year-old Buckingham for Feb. 3, 2014.

Buckingham, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, also presented to Superior Court a waiver of extradition that he signed on May 16, 2013, before a deputy clerk, sheriff at Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Colorado. In that waiver, the former AG stated that he voluntarily waives his right to formal extradition proceedings.

Nicholas asked the court to modify the bail conditions to

See BUCKINGHAM on Page 4

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, left, and his counsel, Brien Sers Nicholas, walk on their way out from Superior Court yesterday afternoon. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

April visitor arrivals up 6 pct.

April 2013 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 6 percent compared to April 2012, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA records show that arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 32,521 visitors in March compared to 30,691 in April 2012.

Arrivals from Japan in April fell 18 percent to 9,438 visitors as end-of-month Golden Week travel out of the Japan market did not meet expectations, with Japanese travelers to both NMI and Guam staying away from booking high-cost peak period Golden Week packages to the Marianas.

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Former federal officials weigh in on OIA plans

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Benedetto

Cohen

Former Federal Labor Ombudsman James J. Benedetto asked U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and key U.S. Congress members to keep the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI open for another five years—"or at least until several important issues are resolved" concerning alien workers in the CNMI.

Benedetto, at the same time, said the U.S. Congress should provide "green cards" for legal, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI for three reasons.

He said foreign workers are still needed to supplement U.S. citizen workforce, permanent resident status is the best protection against exploitation of those workers, and "it is the right

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TCGCC chairman declines CPA board nomination. PAGE 6
Herman's Bakery wins booth contest at 'Taste' PAGE 8

Local

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Masilungan, Calayo top GCA elementary grads

MARCELO MASILUNGAN JR.
Valedictorian

JUSTINE CALAYO
Salutatorian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy bestowed this year's highest academic honors on two students who topped the graduating class of sixth graders and were promoted Wednesday in a special ceremony.

Twelve-year-olds Marcelo Masilungan Jr. and Justine Calayo were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, after demonstrating excellence in their studies.

Masilungan Jr. was also presented with the prestigious Eagle Award by school board president Rev. Raymond Kinsella. Marcelo is the son of Mar and Malou Masilungan.

The younger Masilungan dedicated his awards to his parents, especially to his mother who is currently seeking medical treatment in Manila. He vowed to continue to strive for excellence so he can continue to bring pride to his family. He also expressed gratitude to his sister, mentors, and friends for their encouragement and inspiration.

Calayo, this year's salutatorian, is the son of Des Ribut and Roly Calayo. The student is also her batch nominee for the Eagle Award and was also recognized during Wednesday's ceremonies.

In his address, Calayo thanked his family, mentors, and friends for their all-out support. "You left a mark in my life, molding me to who I am now and setting up a firm foundation to what I will become," she said.

According to Calayo, what they have achieved so far is nothing compared to what they have yet to do tomorrow. What lies ahead, she said, will be more challenging and more demanding of their effort and time.

Three other students who graduated with honors are Jasmine Phan, Min Hyeok Steven Ha, and Joshua Abragan.

GCA promoted to junior high school 22 sixth graders.

Early registration ends June 1 for 2nd Marianas History Conference

The 2nd Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held on the University of Guam campus on Aug. 30-31, 2013. The early bird registration price of $25 ends June 1, and space is limited. In addition to the conference, a closing banquet at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort promises to be an enjoyable evening of food and fun.

The conference theme highlights the deep and rich history

See EARLY on Page 4

Saipan Mayor Office hopes for better footing next year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Municipality of Saipan currently runs on what it describes as a "bare bones" budget of $1.165 million, with most of that going to pay for the wages and benefits of 39 personnel. The rest goes to the agency's all others.

According to Henry Hofschneider, special adviser to Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, the current budget is already a "challenging" situation for the agency and any downward adjustment in the amount will mean a drastic reduction in personnel.

For next fiscal year, Flores' office proposes a $1.395 million budget, of which $960,455 will be used to pay for personnel cost, while $434,732 will go to "all others"—a catchall phrase that includes utility costs, supplies, fuel, equipment purchase or repair, and all other operational expenses.

According to Hofschneider, the slight increase in the agency's budget is for the increasing cost of equipment repair and maintenance.

In the budget plan Gov. Eloy S. Inos submitted to the Legislature, he asked for $1.345 million for the Municipality of Saipan—just a slight variance from the mayor's proposal, with $928,191 for personnel and $417,405 for all others.

Expressing himself satisfied with the governor's proposal, Hofschneider said this means the mayor's office will be able to keep all its personnel in the next 12 months and continue its many community projects.

The final decision, however, lies with the Legislature.

"With the governor's submission, which is just a $50,000 variance from our proposal, we can survive next fiscal year. But if it is lower than $1 million, we will need to take some drastic measures and adjustments in both personnel and all others," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

By drastic he means the office will have to let some people go.

He pointed out that the mayor's office paid no overtime or any additional compensation to personnel this fiscal year.

Heavy equipment

The municipality owns four heavy equipment—a grader, a dump truck, a backhoe, and a small water tanker—all of which are dilapidated and on the verge of collapse. All are more than 25 years old already, said Hofschneider.

Of the four, only two are working following the recent breakdown of the grader and the water tanker.

Hofschneider said this breakdown is impacting the agency's lineup of clearing activities. "Just like what happened to our only grader, which broke down during a clearing road operation in Kagman last Saturday, we have to spend in order to fix the transmission, which is costing us a lot."

Hofschneider worries that the office's continued lack of funding will impact its priority projects.

Saipan Tribune learned that the acquisition of reconditioned equipment was not included in the agency's 2014 budget request. "The level of budget we requested for FY 2014 is just not sufficient to support acquisition of reconditioned equipment," Hofscheider said.

Off-island travels

Besides the strict observance of no overtime pay, the municipality has also cut down its travel costs.

According to Hofschneider, since the start of the fiscal year in October, the agency recorded only four off-island travels—three to Japan and one to Guam. The official representation listed was Mayor Donald Flores and at least two staffers in one trip. These off-island events were all related to the municipality's cultural students exchange program.

Saipan Tribune learned that $20,000 has been allocated for the mayor's travel this fiscal year, of which 15 percent is reserved for any potential personnel shortfall. As of May, the mayor's travel cost is at a little over $15,000. The remaining balance available for travel is only $400 as of this week.

"Because we don't have enough money for personnel, we need to maintain that reserve so we can immediately reprogram when needed," Hofschneider said.

Revenue programs

The mayor's office has five programs that are considered revenue generating and earn nominal income for the agency.

One is the agency's ID program, which charges $7 to $15 apiece, depending on the age. Hofschneider disclosed that the "nominal" revenue from this program helps the agency buy office supplies and maintain the office computers.

The office also administers the dog shelter program but the money it raises from the sale of licenses are restricted to the maintenance and expansion of the program itself. This, Hofschneider said, cannot be reprogrammed for other purposes.

The agency also handles the marriage certificate program but the money it generates goes directly to the general fund, which the government uses for its budgeting process.

Another is the cockpit license program, which this year approved a five-year $32,000 license payable in five years. A portion of the yearly revenue is being used to sustain the cost of the student exchange program that sends students to Korea and Japan, and to purchase parts for the heavy equipment, Hofschneider said.

The bingo and batu license programs also bring in a bit of brass. The agency charges the bingo operator $10,000 a year and the batu operator, $1,000 a year.

Saipan Tribune learned that the mayor's office generates $65,000 to $70,000 a year from these five programs.

"Payments go into the general fund upon receipt, but are later deposited into separate local accounts which have been authorized by the various enabling local laws," explained Hofschneider.

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OBAMACARE

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aliens in the CNMI "has been worth the effort and has been worth the political risk."

"Because I think this is the right choice for our Commonwealth," said Sablan, an independent caucusing with the Democrats in the U.S. Congress.

SHRM invited Sablan to talk about both the Affordable Care Act, and the U.S. Senate Gang of Eight's 800-page sweeping immigration reform bill.

That bill includes a provision allowing long-term legal aliens in the Commonwealth to apply for CNMI-only permanent residency and later on, "green card" which is a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

'Delay'

Eric Plinske, Staywell Health Insurance Saipan branch manager and an SHRM member, said that market reforms will force insurance providers to increase their premiums by "at least double" the current rates, not because they want to but because they do not have an option.

Plinske asked for at least a two-year delay in the implementation of some milestones kicking in on Jan. 1, 2014.

Sablan, however, told SHRM that congressional politics "means there is almost no chance of fixing the Affordable Care Act now."

The delegate said people asked whether a law could be signed to exempt the CNMI from the market reform. He said it's a fair question but there are many people that like the market reforms.

"They like not having an annual limit or a lifetime limit on their coverage. They like it that insurance companies can't charge women higher rates than men, or old people more than young people. So before we rush into exempting the Marianas, we better be sure that everyone agrees to give up those benefits," he said.

The delegate said the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate, the individual mandate, and tax penalties for non-compliance with insurance requirements do not apply to U.S. territories.

"You can breathe a sigh of relief. But this is a double-edged sword. Remember: healthcare reform is intended to cover tens of millions of Americans who have no insurance," Sablan said.

In the CNMI, 34 percent of the population has no health insurance based on the 2010 Census.

That is about 18,000 people who pay out of their own pocket when they get sick or the hospital has to write off the cost of their care.

Medicaid

The second part of the Affordable Care Act—the increases in Medicaid funding and other grants—applies to the CNMI and other territories such as Puerto Rico that has a population of almost 4 million.

Medicaid is the national health insurance program for Americans below the poverty line.

Between July 2011 and the end of 2019, the CNMI will get over $150 million in federal Medicaid dollars—three times more than the islands would have.

"Effectively, that lifts the cap—at least until 2019," Sablan said.

The CNMI's local match is now also 45 percent, a deal that's better than a dozen of states.

"I don't have to tell you this new Medicaid money could not have come at a better time. Just as the local government stopped subsidizing the Commonwealth Health Center, CHC suddenly had access to $110 million in new federal Medicaid money. And we are using it," he said.

Between July 2011 and this month, the CNMI drew down $21 million of that Affordable Care Act money.

"I can't say that $21 million kept CHC from losing its certification. But you do the math. And there is still another $88 million or so available between now and 2019. Again, that's new money. That's in addition to the $5.5 million in Medicaid we were getting annually – and continue to get – before the Affordable Care Act. The hospital is going to need every penny," he added.

The Community Health Center in Kagman was also paid for with Affordable Care Act money.

The CNMI also received $3 million for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs and other prevention programs.

CNMI seniors on Medicare are also getting a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs that they were not getting before because of the Act.

Market reforms

Sablan, however, conceded that while the CNMI gets millions of dollars of new health care money for Medicaid and other programs, the so-called market reforms apply in the CNMI "and could be a problem for us."

The Affordable Care Act requires insurers to provide policies that cover 10 basic areas of health care.

The CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all failed to submit essential health benefit proposals to the federal government last year.

Sablan said each state and territory can define the level of service within each of the 10 categories. If they don't, they have to use the federal package of essential health benefits.

"The Commonwealth did not submit its own package, so our insurers have to use the federal standard. And our insurers say that's too expensive. They may have to pull out of the market altogether. Cleary, losing access to insurance would not be good for the long-term health of our community. I think it remains to be seen exactly what the outcome will be," he said.

Rate regulation

Sablan said it is true that insurers are being required to provide more benefits.

Moreover, unlike the states where everyone will be required to have insurance, insurers in the CNMI will not have the benefit of an expanded pool of younger, healthier clients signing up and sharing the risk.

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PLANS

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thing to do."

The Interior's Office of Insular Affairs confirmed that the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office will be closed at the end of fiscal year 2013.

OIA said the closure is a result of a "dramatic shift" in the U.S. Labor Ombudsman's Office work—"from working on serious labor and trafficking violations to assisting individual alien workers with more routine immigration and labor issues."

But Benedetto, the federal labor ombudsman from 2002 until 2008, pointed out that since the federal government assumed control of CNMI immigration, roughly the same number of labor complaints has been received by the ombudsman's office as from 1999 to 2008.

He said the office received nearly four times as many immigration-related complaints after federalization as it did in the previous nine years.

Moreover, nearly three times as many human trafficking victims sought help from the office under federal control than those who had come during the pre-federalization period, he said.

"Given these numbers, there is a bitter irony in the [OIA's] decision to close the office," Benedetto said in a May 21 letter to Jewell, U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Ron Wyden and Lisa Murkowski, U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources chair Lisa Murkowski and U.S. State Department's Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

He said OIA funded temporary positions in the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Department of Labor, recognizing that transition to federal control would mean more investigations and prosecutions.

"Yet it proposes to close the very office that collects and refers the lion's share of such complaints," Benedetto added.

Besides an online petition launched by Florida-based human rights advocate and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal to keep the ombudsman's office open, there have been individual letters calling on U.S. officials to reverse its decision, given the continued need to help foreign workers in the CNMI.

David Cohen, former Interior deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, was one of those who signed the online petition.

"I signed the petition as a private citizen, in recognition of the important work the Ombudsman's office has done over the years. However, I respect the prerogative of the Obama Administration to chart its own policy with respect to the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Jeff Schorr, OIA's former field representative in the CNMI for 25 years, said in his personal view, it wasn't a wise decision to close the ombudsman's office because the office "is in the best position to continue to monitor and assist in all those cases that come in."

Benedetto is currently on a two-year detail with the U.S. Department of State working from the Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to train prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers. He said he wrote the letter about the ombudsman's office as a private citizen. He is a former federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office and assistant attorney general in the CNMI government.

"It is my considered opinion that the office is needed as much now as it has ever been," he said in his four-page letter to Interior and Congress members.

He said it is unclear why OIA would seek to close the ombudsman's office at this point, before it could be known whether the transition period will be extended for another five years and before Congress decides whether to act on Interior's recommendation to grant improved immigration status to long-term guest workers.

Benedetto said if political concerns or philosophical differences are the cause, then Congress should provide a dedicated funding source and embed the office with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, or the Congressional Delegate's Office.

For 14 years, the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office has helped refer to proper CNMI and federal agencies thousands of foreign workers who were victims of labor abuses, human trafficking, sex trafficking, illegal recruitment, wage theft, and contract violations, among other things.

The office also helped victims of criminal acts such as rape, assault and battery, false imprisonment, and torture.

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

allow Buckingham to travel to Colorado to attend to his ongoing medical treatment as well as a June 10 hearing before the District Court, Jefferson County in Colorado.

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback opposed the motion, saying he can't trust Buckingham and that the court should not trust the former AG.

If allowed to leave Saipan to go back to Colorado, Buckingham stated that he will voluntarily return to the CNMI and be personally present on the first day of his trial.

Buckingham also voluntarily waived his right to any formal extradition hearing in Colorado if he fails to return to the CNMI.

"I further consent to return voluntarily and without any hearing or other formality to the Commonwealth in this matter for my trial," he stated.

Hasselback said he communicated with the staff of the Colorado District Office and that they asked him to show a letter that Buckingham indeed made a court appearance on Saipan.

Hasselback said he suggested that it is appropriate to dismiss the extradition matter against Buckingham considering that he is already back on Saipan.

Nicholas said the $50,000 cash bail that Buckingham posted is more than enough to assure his client's appearance at court hearings.

Govendo said he can't remember anyone in Superior Court cases who posted a $50,000 cash other than Buckingham.

Hasselback stated that Buckingham is not an ordinary defendant because he is an attorney who, despite served a court summons, moved away from the jurisdiction.

Hasselback said there is no good reason to treat Buckingham differently from other defendants "given his track records."

In an interview, Hasselback said he believes that the bail conditions should be kept the same and that Buckingham should be required to remain on Saipan.

" I don't believe he has demonstrated the ability for the court to be able to trust him to return when I asked him with respect to court orders," Hasselback said.

With respect to waiver issue, Hasselback said there was a waiver of extradition signed by Buckingham to demonstrate to the court that if he does leave the CNMI he will return voluntarily.

"I have some technical objections to that waiver of extradition. It is very specific, but I will raise the issues before the court. I don't think that cures the damage to the court's trust because of Mr. Buckingham's actions," he said.

VISITOR

From Page 1

Bookings to the NMI have also been hit hard by the rapidly dropping value of the Japanese yen, which is making travel to U.S. dollar-based destinations increasingly expensive for Japanese. In just the last six months, the value of the yen has plummeted by over 25 percent, making travel by Japanese to the NMI 25 percent comparatively more expensive than just six months ago.

Forward booking levels out of the Japan market continue to look relatively weak this summer. The MVA is actively working with key travel agent partners to launch promotions into the market targeting the pre- and post-summer peak season to shore up the summer weakness that is being projected.

Arrivals from Korea rose 3 percent in April to 9,645 visitors as the Korea market resumes its steady growth. Asiana Airlines will boost its Busan-Saipan flights from four times a week to daily during the month of August targeting the summer peak season, using an Airbus 320 with 141 seats and bringing in an additional 1,833 seats to the Northern Marianas this summer, ensuring continued growth out of the Korean market this summer.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China surpassed Japan for the first time since the MVA (then Marianas Visitors Bureau) began keeping arrival statistics in 1997, jumping 44 percent in April to 10,305 visitors.

In conjunction with Century Tours, DFS Saipan, and other key China travel agents, the MVA is running a large-scale billboard, subway advertising, PR and travel trade campaign in Beijing from April to June in support of the Beijing flights and targeting the post-Lunar New Year low season. Saipan recently won the award as the most popular island destination of the year in China from *Travel Weekly China*, the leading travel trade publication in China. Continued rapid growth is projected out of the China market for the remainder of this year.

Arrivals from Russia were also up dramatically in April, registering a 131 percent increase in arrivals to 956. The Northern Marianas now receives bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok since October and weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk since March. ***(MVA)***

EARLY

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of the Mariana Islands, while also bridging the archipelago's political division dating to the late 1800s. Papers and posters may be submitted under the following general categories: Ancient History; Early Colonial (17th – 18th centuries); Late Colonial (19th – early 20th centuries) World War II; Recent (post-war); and Oral History and Genealogical Research.

After June 1, tickets will be $50 per person until July 15, 2013. Space is limited. For conference registration and payments, go to http://marianashistory.guampedia.com/. For more info, contact Prof. Anne Perez Hattori at ahattori@uguam.uog.edu or Prof. Mike Clement, mclement@uguam.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

Nearly 3K enroll in ABE programs in five years; 72 went on to college

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nearly 3,000 students have enrolled and availed of the services of the Adult Basic Education program at the Northern Marianas College in the last five years and more students, after completing the program, are entering college.

In a recent presentation to the Board of Regents, ABE state director Lorraine T. Cabrera said a total of 2,958 students have enrolled in the program from 2006 through 2011, with each year's registration showing a slight increase every year.

In program year 2006-2007, the ABE program just had 530 enrollees. In program year 2010-2011, the college posted its highest ABE enrollment with 625 students.

Data further shows that a total of 278 students "graduated" or completed the program in the same five-year period. It was in 2010 when NMC recorded its highest number of ABE graduates, 83.

In terms of the number of ABE graduates entering post-secondary education, NMC recorded 72 students who entered college after obtaining their high school diplomas. NMC's numbers are much higher than that of the Guam Community College, with only 27 who enrolled in college in the last five years; and the 30 recorded by the Ministry of Palau during the same period.

According to Cabrera, records show that both ABE and adult secondary education enrollments continue to post strong number. However, the retention of students continues to be a challenge for the program, like many other ABE programs across the nation.

"But the ABE program here is working diligently with individual students to ensure that they remain in the program until completion. We have seen the number of ABE graduates entering college after completion increasing. We are working closely with other representatives at the college to make sure ABE students are receiving the support and guidance that they need as they make the transition," according to Cabrera yesterday.

The ABE program at NMC has three components: adult basic education, English as a second language, and adult secondary education.

ABE is for individuals seeking literacy according to basic levels. ESL is for those with limited English proficiency according to six levels; and ASE is for individuals seeking to earn a high school diploma either through GED (general educational development diploma), or the ASE (the adult school) program.

Federal grant awards fund the operation of the ABE program in the CNMI.

IN TAYLOR'S LAWSUIT VS BUCKINGHAM, CNMI GOVT

Prosecutor seeks dismissal of claims vs NMI govt, OAG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the federal court to dismiss the claims against the OAG and the CNMI government in the age discrimination lawsuit filed by a former CNMI government lawyer against former attorney Edward T. Buckingham.

In the CNMI government and OAG's motion filed in the U.S. District Court on Wednesday, assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel said that James William Taylor had not stated sufficient facts to support his age discrimination claim since his complaint alleges that cost savings, rather than age, motivated his alleged termination.

To prove a prima facie case for age discrimination, Patel said that Taylor must plead facts that support that he is at least 40 years old, was performing his job satisfactorily, was discharged, and replaced by a substantially younger employee with equal or inferior qualifications.

Patel said that Taylor fails to plead sufficient facts pertaining to job performance and replacement by a younger employee.

She noted that the plaintiff merely concludes that "at all times material hereto, Mr. Taylor's job performance was satisfactory."

Patel said that Taylor does not provide any evidence to show that his job performance was satisfactory such as he did not violate the employer's policies, completed his tasks on time, communicated well with supervisors, received favorable work evaluations, or provided sound legal advice.

Second, Patel said, Taylor merely concludes that "the replacements held equal or inferior qualifications."

Taylor did not provide any facts about the qualifications of the alleged replacements or the qualifications necessary for his position, Patel added.

On other claims against the OAG and the government, Patel said the Commonwealth did not violate the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Patel said that Taylor knew that his contract, which he knowingly entered into, has a provision for discharge without cause.

She conceded that Taylor's resignation was involuntary and was, in fact, a discharge.

Taylor, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, filed the age discrimination lawsuit last month against Buckingham, the CNMI government, and OAG.

Taylor claimed that Buckingham fired him in 2011 without following proper procedures to save on cost and in retaliation for his advice against the approval of some sole-source contracts.

OBAMACARE

From Page 4

"On the other hand, insurers can adjust their rates. They can adjust their co-payment structures. They can negotiate costs with providers. And, if insurers do adjust rates, the public is protected against price-gouging, because the Affordable Care Act is giving our Insurance Commissioner [Sixto Igisomar] $3 million, as I mentioned, to oversee and regulate rates," he said.

The Affordable Care Act also requires that insurers spend at least 80 percent of what they collect to provide care.

Sablan said that "medical loss ratio" provision already resulted in insurers in the CNMI giving back $300,000 to customers.

"I know it looks like the cards are stacked against our local insurers right now. But it is also true that it is difficult to predict exactly how markets will respond to new laws," he added.

Improved status

Section 2109 of the U.S. Senate's immigration reform bill has a CNMI-specific provision allowing long-term legal aliens to apply for improved status.

Sablan, in addressing SHRM members and guests, said the provision will affect businesses and human resource managers.

He said with federal immigration, businesses and human resource managers had to deal with regulations and federal bureaucrats. They have uncertainty whether their workers would get their CW status and whether they will be renewed in time. Besides the fees, they also have to deal with the fact that the transition period will end on Dec. 31, 2014, unless extended.

The delegate said he is cautiously optimistic that the CNMI-specific provision will take a lot of these worries off of businesses and HR managers' shoulders.

"The goal of Section 2109 is to create a more stable, reliable, permanent labor force here in the Marianas. It acknowledges that no matter how hard we try we are not going to replace 12,000 foreign workers with 12,000 U.S. workers. We just don't have the bodies—no matter how much training we provide," he said.

Sablan said the "chances" of the bill in the U.S. Senate "look good." However, the U.S. House is another matter.

"But whether any bill will make it to the president for his signature is for now a guessing game," he added.

During the question-and-answer, SHRM members also asked the delegate about the proposed minimum wage increase delay this year and every other year, CW permit renewals, and the transition period extension request.

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TCGCC chairman declines CPA board nomination

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing "pressing personal matter," Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission chair Mathew C. Masga declined yesterday Gov. Eloy S. Inos' nomination of him to become a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors representing Tinian.

Masga, in a phone interview, said he will stay on, however, as casino commission member and chairman.

"The attorney general cleared that there's no conflict if I serve as a CPA board member while already serving as a commission chair. But I am asking the governor to withdraw my nomination for CPA board member because of personal matter. Let's leave it at that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In his one-page letter to the governor yesterday, Masga expressed his "sincere appreciation" for the nomination.

He also emphasized the need to have direct flights to Tinian from Asia "which is the priority concern of all the potential developers interested in investing in our gaming jurisdiction."

"Furthermore, as you already know, since 2003, over $14 million of CIP [capital improvement project] funds have been spent to upgrade the facilities at the Tinian International Airport, and the commencement of direct flights has yet to materialize," he told the governor, who is currently in Alaska on official business.

Masga said he looks forward to continue working with the governor, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, the CPA board, and other government officials to make the direct flights to Tinian a reality.

"This achievement will certainly enhance the gaming industry in the Second Senatorial District, and also assist with the economic growth of the CNMI," he added.

Inos sent Masga's nomination to the Senate on April 23, for advice and consent. He would have served the unexpired term of Manuel P. Villagomez, which will expire on June 4, 2015, if confirmed by the Senate.

Over $3M in poker money OK'd for scholarship, Saipan projects

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a lengthy discussion on a proposed revamp of the Saipan zoning law, Saipan lawmakers also debated and passed a local bill appropriating and re-appropriating a total of over $3.3 million in poker fees to fund the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, programs, and a host of precinct projects.

House Local Bill 18-9, Substitute 1 passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation by a vote of 20-0.

The bill now goes to the governor for action.

The bill, co-authored by Reps. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), and John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), appropriates $3 million for SHEFA.

The other $183,000 is appropriated for the following: $100,000 for SHEFA operations; $20,000 for Saipan Little League; $15,000 for the 13th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival; $5,000 for the Agricultural Fair; $5,000 for the Saipan Fishing Derby; $3,000 for the Spear Fishing Association; $15,000 for Liberation Day activities; and $20,000 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's operational funds.

Fund balances pursuant to Saipan Local Laws 15-11 and 17-16 were also re-appropriated for different projects in Precinct 5.

The bill also re-appropriates $200,344 in poker money for the following: $195,821.41 for Precinct 5 projects; and $4,522.59 for the CNMI Mock Trial team's actual incidental expenses at the National Mock Trial Championships in Indiana early this month.

The measure also gives $100,000 for Precinct 2 projects and the completion of the Niyok Road project. Another $22,500 is for Precinct 5 projects.

Alleged theft case dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the criminal charges filed against a 22-year-old man who was arrested for allegedly stealing a pack of crabmeat from a store in Garapan.

At a preliminary hearing on Tuesday, Camacho said he heard the testimony of the government's witness and found no probable cause to warrant the filing of charges of theft and criminal contempt against Yeveniy E. Vysochin.

"This court is not convinced that the government has met its burden as to probable cause. The defendant is released forthwith," the judge said.

The court previously determined that Vysochin has a mental condition that causes extreme moods and behavior.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Vysochin with theft and criminal contempt for allegedly stealing a pack of crabmeat from Pretty Market.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField appeared for the government at the preliminary hearing and called a police detective to the witness stand. Assistant public defender Matt Meyer served as counsel for the defendant.

In dismissing the case, Camacho noted that based on witness testimony, the store's bagger saw Vysochin putting the crabmeat in his pocket when the suspect was already outside the store.

The police detective was even not sure if the crabmeat was sold at Pretty Market.

The judge pointed out that there is no video of the incident as the detective went back to the store a week later and the footage had already been erased.

Vysochin was spotted and arrested an hour later after the incident and that there was no crabmeat found in his possession.

Last March, Camacho sentenced Vysochin to three months in prison, with credit for two months time served, after he pleaded guilty to resisting arrest.

On July 7, 2013, Vysochin caused a disturbance at Payless Shoe Source, refused to leave the premises, and resisted arrest by spitting on and hitting a police officer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Garijo Francis D. Gamab
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Brianna C. Hunger
You Jin Jun
Andrew Jang Kim
Eric Lee
John Diego M. Masga
Jospeh Jr. P. Muna
Michael Roy E. Ortizo
Veeny France J. Revilla
Antonia S. Reyes
Karleen Rita Reyes
Dan Bi Ryu
Carmen Guadalupe C. Sablan
Kayla Mae DLG. Sablan
Rodalene Carmen G. Sanchez
Joshua G. Santos
Isa Belle P. Seman
Hung Wook "Alex" Seo
Nathaniel T. Snodgrass
Stefani O. Tagabuel
Caitlin Alexis Tinney
Jan-Nasia Jean B. Travilla

Victoria Ann Camacho Deleon Guerrero
Next destination: Seattle University

Anne Gelika Mamuyac Elenzano
Next destination: Travel Institute of the Pacific

Rosemarie Seat Guerrero
Next destination: Northern Marianas College

Young Chae "Elizabeth" Han
Next destination: Hotel Management Studies

Feng Liang Lizama
Next destination: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Michelle Ann Malit Masga
Next destination: Northern Marianas College

Alyssia Ashley Delos Santos Olarte
Next destination: San Diego State University

Amalia Adela Lifoifoi Pangelinan
Next destination: Northern Marianas College

Janela A. Revilla
Next destination: Syracuse University

Ji Min Ryu
Next destination: Business Management Studies in South Korea

Kimberly Rae S. Sablan
Next destination: Guam Community College

Anastasia Rose Cano Schweiger
Next destination: Villanova University

So Yeon "Christina" Shin
Next destination: University of Las Vegas

Alex Sablan Aldan Jr.
Next destination: Sports Management Studies in Arizona

Bryan Cho
Next destination: South Seattle Community College

Quin Camacho Manglona
Next destination: Computer Science Studies in Hawaii

John Gilbert Salvatierra Saludez
Next destination: UC Davis

Ammar Shakir
Next destination: University of Guam

Sho Suzuki
Next destination: Tokyo Kimono College

Ken Ikeda Taguchi
Next destination: Kapiolani Community College

Sang Won "Jason" Yoon
Next destination: Handong University

Herman's Bakery wins booth contest at 'Taste'

MVA

Emmanuel Pancha, fourth from left, and Richard Meimban, second from right, of Mariana Resort & Spa cooked up the winning All American Burger at the Chefs' Competition on May 25, 2013, during the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden. Treasurer Michael Johnson of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, third from left, presents a $500 check the winners, along with judges and organizers.

The 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden ended last Saturday with the booth of Herman's Modern Bakery winning top honors for the booth decorating competition.

Herman's Modern Bakery scored highest overall on a list of criteria including overall look of island theme presentation, creativity, originality, use of local and indigenous material, and use of recyclable material.

Coral Ocean Point Resort's booth won second place, Fiesta Resort & Spa got third place, and D-Elegance Café landed in fourth place.

Meanwhile, Mariana Resort & Spa garnered the judges' nod for the second year in a row to win first place in last Saturday's Certified Angus Beef Chefs' Competition. This year's theme was All American Burger.

MVA

Poksai INATUAS perform during the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 25, 2013.

MVA

Chef Eom Yong "Ben" Woon of Hyatt Regency Saipan barbecues jerked beef and chicken skewers at the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 25, 2013.

Emmanuel Pancha and Richard Meimban bested entries from five other hotels to walk off with $500 cash from the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, other prizes, and bragging rights for another year.

Entries from the Hyatt Regency and Fiesta Resort and Spa rounded out second and third place, respectively.

The Chefs' Competition was also sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods.

"Once again, the enthusiastic support of our food vendors, entertainers, sponsors and patrons have made the annual Taste of the Marianas a success," said Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas. "It's been great seeing the community come together each Saturday to enjoy good food, drink, and entertainment in celebration of Tourism Month, and we look forward to hosting the event again next year."

The Taste of the Marianas is held every Saturday evening during May Tourism Month at American Memorial Park. Local hotels and restaurants offer fine fare at a reasonable fare, with most dinner items at $6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment is featured on the main stage, and arts and crafts will also be on sale. ***(MVA)***

Six entries presented by hotel junior chefs were entered into the Certified Angus Beef Chefs' Competition of All American Burgers at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 25, 2013.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 31, 2004

Babauta: More streamlining needed

Gov. Juan N. Babauta called on all department heads and division secretaries to continue streamlining their operational costs to ensure that the government does not exceed its $213-million budget ceiling. Babauta assured Friday that essential public services would continue to be provided by the government but streamlining of operational costs must be addressed to ensure that the Executive Office works within its means. Babauta, who left for Washington D.C. for a 10-day meeting with U.S. government and congressional officials, disclosed that overtimes for police officers and budget concerns at the Department of Public Health are now being looked into.

Relocation of power plant 'problematic'

The proposed relocation of Puerto Rico power plant cannot be done easily as it would violate an existing contract that reportedly guarantees continued operations of the plant up to 2016. When asked on the progress of the proposed relocation during a legislative hearing Friday, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board vice chairman Frank Q. Guerrero said the power plant "has to be there." The Legislature recently adopted a joint resolution supporting the immediate relocation of the plant following complaints from local residents of noise pollution and other environmental and health concerns.

May 31, 2005

Average of $8M in overtime, benefits a year

Since Fiscal Year 1997 to 2004, the CNMI government has spent an average of $8 million a year in overtime costs, with FY 1997 posting the highest figure at $12.38 million and FY 1999 the lowest at $4.8 million, according to documents obtained by the Saipan Tribune. For the current fiscal year covering the period from October 2004 to April 2005, the government has spent a total of $4.52 million in overtime payments. Including fringe benefits, the government's total expenses have reached $5.7 million in FY 2005. Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig emphasized, though, that the totals for FY 2004 and 2005 are preliminary and unaudited. Among the big spenders, the Department of Public Safety consistently ranks as the government's top spender for overtime pay since 1997.

'Fitial talking with JAL executives'

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has been talking with Japan Airlines executives amid reports of the airline's plan to pull out from the Marianas. Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez said Fitial spoke with a JAL manager on Friday. Yesterday, the speaker was expected to continue his discussions with other JAL executives. "The speaker conveyed his concerns regarding JLA pullout and also the timing," said Villagomez. "It [JAL pullout] is unfortunate but I think that it's a corporate decision. However, the CNMI can still do a last-ditch effort and talk with JAL executives to convince them to stay."

May 31, 2006

$193.5M budget level approved

The Senate unanimously approved yesterday a $193.5 million spending limit for the next fiscal year. The Upper House made no amendments to House Concurrent Resolution 15-1, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on May 19,2006. H.C.R. 15-1 endorses $208.6 million as the total resources available to the Commonwealth for FY 2007. However, the resolution shows that only $193.5 million will be available for government operations due to fund transfers and certain fixed expenses. Some $1.6 million of the proceeds of the cigarette excise tax needs to be transferred to the tobacco control fund. Another 10 percent or $2.5 million of excise taxes is due for transfer to the solid waste fund.

Senate approves defined contribution plan

The Senate passed yesterday a bill that aims to create a defined contribution plan, replacing the government's existing defined benefit plan. The NMI Retirement Fund expressed no objection to the measure, saying it would be less burdensome to the financially bankrupt government. "There's no problem with that. What I do not know is how they are going to find a company or institution to run it," said Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes yesterday. He said it is not clear if the present NMI Retirement Fund, which is headed by a board of trustees, would be kept intact. Senate Bill 15-47 or the defined contribution plan passed during a Senate session yesterday with seven yes votes and one abstention from Sen. Luis Crisostimo. Sen. Paul M. Manglona was absent.

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Tilapia $1.09 /LB.

Milk Fish $1.39 /LB.

Sea Wave Calamari $1.89 16oz.

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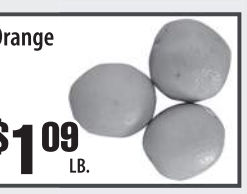

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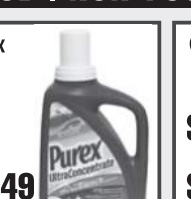

Gain Liquid $5.99 50 OZ. $9.99 100 OZ.

Gain Powder $15.99 102 Loads $18.99 120 Loads

Head & Shoulders *All Kinds* $5.49 23OZ. *Shampoo* $7.99

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

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Rebooting the war on terror

President Obama's speech last week on the future course of America's 11-year-old war against al-Qaida was long overdue.

Never before has he offered the public such a detailed explanation of his anti-terrorism strategy. In part, that's surely because so much of it was officially secret—but also because the public hasn't demanded a position more nuanced than "tough on terrorism."

The president did three big things in his speech Thursday at the National Defense University in Washington. He argued that America's fight against terrorism should be narrower and more sharply focused. He formalized, in particular, new limitations on drone strikes. And he promised that the war against al-Qaida will end someday.

Predictably, Republicans instantly accused Obama of going soft. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., charged that merely by giving his speech, Obama had handed the terrorists a victory.

"Rather than continuing successful counter-terrorism activities, we are changing course with no clear operational benefit," he said.

Rep. William M "Mac" Thornberry, R-Texas, charged that Obama was proposing we could return to "a pre-9/11 sort of mentality."

But that's not what Obama said, and it's not what he's doing either. In fact, some might charge that he's simply rebranding the war on terror; he prefers to call it "a systematic effort to dismantle terrorist organizations."

But it's still going to look an awful lot like war.

In Obama's new version, there will still be drone strikes against terrorists overseas, including U.S. citizens—just fewer of them, under clearer rules.

The president will continue to assert the authority to strike anyone who threatens the United States, but maybe not militants who target other friendly governments.

And the United States will still hold dozens of detainees without trial; they may merely be moved from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a prison in the United States, if Congress allows—which, by all appearances, it won't.

That doesn't mean Obama hasn't made significant changes. His new rules on drone strikes, in particular, are important and useful.

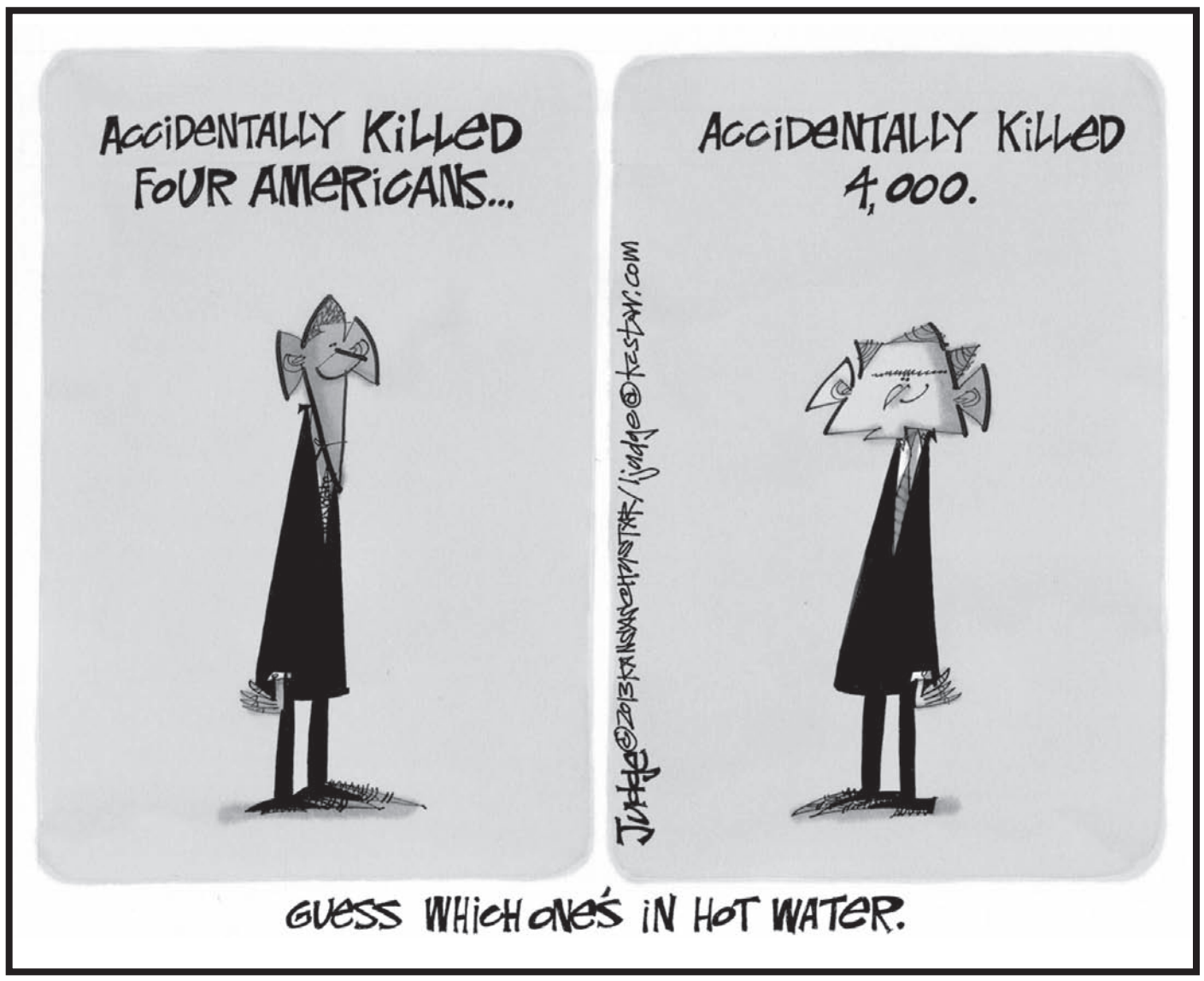
Despite his image as the antiwar candidate in 2008, when Obama took office, he approved a major increase in the use of armed drones against suspected terrorists in Pakistan and Yemen, from an estimated 35 in 2008 to 121 in 2010. Officials bragged openly about the lethal effectiveness of the strikes and claimed that they were precise enough to avoid all but a few civilian casualties.

But over time, they discovered that the miracle weapon was not without costs. In Pakistan, reports of civilian casualties turned politicians and the public against the United States.

In Yemen, where the number of strikes increased from four in 2010 to 42 in 2012, U.S. drones were used not only against al-Qaida but also as a weapon in the country's civil war. In Somalia and other countries, U.S. officials said they were running out of legitimate targets.

And they worried that unfettered use of drones would set too

See REBOOTING on Next Page



Tiger's fried chicken

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

I crossed the international dateline shortly after I turned 20, heading by ship (MNL, HK, Yokohama, Hawaii, SF) for a little town outskirt of Lexington, KY in a bastion of evangelicals who decided not to have anything to do with modernism. The town voted down a proposed interstate highway to pass through its neighborhood. But they were warm-hearted Wesleyans who sang their hymns with vigor and cried their sins easily in the communion rails at Vespers.

I did not know I was going to be a trophy Asian when I left the boonies of northern Luzon to the environs of what I thought was just one of America's citadel of liberal learning. There were two black faces in my freshman class, both from Liberia. Other black faces on campus maintained the premises or cooked meals in the kitchen. They lived in shacks across the rail tracks in town with their Sunday revival services more vibrant than the Main Street's Protestant edifice complexes.

On scholarship, I worked part time and the kitchen ladies loved my labor 'cause my Mama taught me to always leave the pots and pans polished like silver. I ate with the kitchen help so I always had an extra helping of fried chicken, along with a slice of watermelon, and a plateful of collard greens (also pronounced *colored greens*). I naturally devoured the veggies, though I thought it needed a dab of anchovy sauce (*patis*), which the ladies would not touch since the Louisiana variety labeled it *sauce poisson;* they were not wild to eat poison!

This is a longish intro to Kentucky fried chicken, before the Colonel made KFC a common household word globally, but when the golfer Sergio Garcia jokingly used it in reference to what he would serve Tiger Woods for dinner, it did not sit well with the tiger.

The young 'uns in my English class recite a local pre-school ditty that begins with *Yi ge da xi gua…* ("I have one big watermelon …") in *tai chi*-like movement that we recite to practice pronouncing English words. I did not know even in Kentucky and Texas that eating watermelon was also racially-laced Porgy and Bess. Happily, it is one of the cheapest Vitamin E source in China without a taint of racial overtone.

We recently did a Sergio Garcia *faux pas* when we passed along a Pope Francis joke about his blessing the crowd at his Mass, first, on mankind with "Tuti Homini," then adding womankind with "et Tuti Femini," and finally with the LGBT crowd, "et Tuti Fruiti." My listserv is a pretty liberal crowd, but some of my colleagues took offense to our flighty indiscretion, and I was promptly held to account for my insensitivity.

The use of the race card remains a volatile issue for those who use it, and those offended by it. Bill Clinton in the 2008 presidential campaign leveled the charge against Obama as using the race card to his advantage while in the stomp in VA and SC. I resided in DC while the Clintons were in the White House, and Bill fancied himself as being the first American black President, albeit albino.

Obama carries that card well in his presidency, intentionally I hope. His popularity was tested in his GOP-upsetting re-election that upended many pundits who predicted that Romney was heading for Pennsylvania Ave.

It is another matter to the erstwhile Buddhist Tiger Woods, playfully half-Thai with his African-American DNA. When he won the 1997 Masters, Fuzzy Zoeller commented that he should not serve fried chicken and collards at the champions' dinner; that makes Garcia's jibe old but still totally inappropriate. Racial slurs v. Obama, and now with Eric Holder on the hot seat remain common but toothless in the nation's capital.

Being of Philippine descent, I was lumped along with many of the SVES teachers as favoring Filipinos to gain honors at graduation against equally deserving Chamorros and Carolinians. I used to dismiss this as just another instance of racial prejudice until a parent actually asked the principal to convene a conference so that she could hear for herself the reasons why her son was not going to graduate valedictorian.

If we point out that the six awardees in the recent CNMI Mathcourt have names that are more Hangeul than Marianitas, and the top five at NMC have only one name that comes close to deriving from Iberian masters, it would be clear that the NMD's call to fame on island will not be for being at the heap of PSS' Western standardized tests. Does it really matter?

It is the LGBT crowd that is now getting the brunt of prejudicial asides. The Pope Francis joke forwarded by a devout Catholic colleague was funny to me because it let the Catholic Church laugh at its own blind side. There is hope for the human race.

Recent images of massive demonstrations in France held this week in protest of new same-sex marriage laws, the news that the venerable Church England unveiled plans to ordain female priests in every diocese by 2014, that 12 states in the Union already legalized same-sex unions, President Obama openly for the legal stature, and DOMA under review by the Supreme Court, the Tiger Woods of the LGBT crowd can enjoy their friend chicken!

Got time for a watermelon joke?

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A true classic for Dad

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

We've got about two weeks to prepare for Father's Day. It's so close I can see it from my beach chair. So I'm going to mention a gift idea, and I'm also going to wax philosophic about such things. Beach chairs are good for that.

I wanted to pick one thing, just one, that would be a great Father's Day gift to mention. It had to be easily available on Saipan, and also easy on the wallet. It had to mesh with Saipan's hands-on, tropical lifestyle. Well, having considered a dozen or two worthy candidates, I wound up returning to an old favorite: The Victorinox Classic SD Swiss Army knife. True to the name, it is, indeed, made in Switzerland.

Saipan's Joeten Ace Hardware advises me that they have them in stock, priced at $21.99.

Prices on the Web can be a bit less, but shipping usually has costs, and a lot of places won't ship to Saipan. But you already know the routine for that stuff, and you don't need me to do your shopping.

The Classic SD is small. It measures about 2-1/4 inches long, roughly the length of my pinky finger. It's only about 1/3 of an inch thick. The item itself weighs less than an ounce, though packaging is apparently included on many spec sheets, which ups the figure.

Less than an ounce? Indeed. So it's little wonder that all over the world these things are hanging off key chains, or stored in sewing kits, fishing kits, first aid kits, and desk drawers.

Being so small and simple, this isn't a braggart's bounty. The gadget hounds at the shopping mall won't be impressed. The neighborhood Rambo will surely point out that you can't fillet a Brontosaurus with it.

But out in the real world, where reality lives, we all know that life nibbles at us with a million little miscellaneous tasks. It's just this miscellanea that the Classic SD addresses; after all, life is more detail than it is drama.

The design consists of a tiny little knife blade that's just 1-1/4 inches long, a nail file with a tip that serves as a flathead screwdriver (hence the "SD" in the model name), a pair of scissors, a pair of tweezers, and a plastic toothpick. The toothpick does not interest me, so I always throw it out and put another pair of tweezers in its place.

As small as it is, this is a very well-made tool.

I once fixed my pickup truck at Oleai beach with a Classic SD. I smelled a fuel leak that seemed to be coming from under the hood. Sure enough, when I took a look at things, the end of the fuel hose that fed the carburetor had split. Not good.

Using the screwdriver tip of the knife's file, I loosened the hose clamp at the carb end. Then I pulled the line off. The split only went a half inch down the line, so I used the knife to cut off this section of line, and then I put everything back together again. Problem solved.

Of course, that was back when a normal person could fix a truck. Still, I'm sure you could fill a book with anecdotes about people using these things to make all sorts of field-expedient repairs. This is the duct tape of the cutlery world.

The scissors really work, and are good for everything from trimming your nails on a road trip, to cutting stitches in sewing duty, and so on. They also make decent wire strippers in a pinch.

The nail file's flat tip can be used to pry off bottle caps, which takes a few seconds, but it works.

The tweezers are good for removing splinters, thorns, and insect stingers from skin. They're also useful for seating, and un-seating, small screws when repairing eyeglasses and calculators.

My first Swiss Army knife was a big, bulky affair. I got it when I was a Boy Scout. I liked to show off all its gimmicks, such as saws, a corkscrew, and a fish scaler. It made me feel sophisticated and adventurous.

One day, when I had the thing in a front pocket of my trousers, we were horsing around and somebody tackled me. It was just a garden variety tackle, but this one drove that bulky chunk of Swiss steel into my leg. I no longer felt sophisticated. I just felt pain.

So I realized I don't need to haul around saws, corkscrew, and a fish scaler. Sometimes, less is more. Anything big and bulky should justify its place. That was a good lesson, and was reinforced many times since.

Anyway, this time around, I think I've got Father's Day safely covered. It's amazing what we can do from our beach chairs, eh? So go ahead and grab another cold one from the cooler. Bottle opener? You don't need one. Here's my little knife, it'll do the job just fine.

Former AG Buckingham returns

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The former attorney general returned voluntarily to the island this week. This took his detractors by surprise. In fact, they were very disappointed that Ed Buckingham's voluntary return erases his "fugitive" status. So the anticipated big press show was derailed.

Buckingham is here to answer obstruction of justice charges, not particulars in the PPA contract. The AG is immune for any and all actions he's taken on this and other issues. This point needs to be understood so we don't confuse apples and oranges.

There are no charges filed against him on the PPA contract. And whether we like it or not he is still entitled to his due process rights. It's an inherent provision of our national Constitution. He's back so let the judicial process go through.

The controversy ignites more legal controversies that include the highly unusual claim of "inherent" powers of the court to appoint OPA's George Hasselback as special prosecutor. The court is fully aware that its handpicked special prosecutor has had problems with the former AG when the latter fired him.

This issue alone should have been fully considered by the court and allow either the Office of the Attorney General or Legislature to work on the appointment of a special prosecutor. That the court handpicked its special prosecutor raises suspicion of conspiracy of sort between OPA and the Judiciary on this case. Is this too difficult for rudimentary analysis?

Doesn't the meddling of the court raises the violation of the concept of three separate but equal branches of government? Isn't its appointment of a special prosecutor a usurpation of an executive or legislative function or both?

Too, while the OPA counsel could prosecute cases per pertinent statutes, it brings into focus whether its role is legal in this instance. In other words, can the AGO assign its constitutional and statutory fiduciary roles and functions to OPA? If so, what is the appropriate protocol to implement it? Obviously, the AGO disagrees with the court's appointment of the former assistant AG.

Too, it's obvious that some members of the news media wants to put the former AG to "trial by the press," taking advocacy roles rather than the traditional journalistic presentation of facts.

It obviates the dire need for the former AG to demand for a change of venue in order to secure a fair trial. This he must do in the interest of justice! Biased news reports feed upon an unsophisticated public that leads to the perpetuation of more misperception of what's at issue.

NMC's 'Silence of the Lamb'

The retaliatory termination of two instructors at NMC by the president is demonstrably a foolish case of dashed hope jumping out of the pot, only to land squarely in a sizzling frying pan. Sharon Hart has attained such perfect landing while storming up more legal problems than her nimble mind could absorb.

Before her hiring at NMC, Ms. Hart has had problems with her previous employer (Middlesex Community College) in North Dakota. In 2008 during the annual North Dakota State College of Science faculty council meeting, "the faculty voted 95 to one for a vote of no confidence in NDSDCS president Sharon Hart," according to the *Daily News* of North Dakota.

Before the vote, Faculty council president Deb Dusek told the faculty, "If you have any comments or questions, they need to be made now…now is the time." There was also a letter from Dee Jensen, associate professor at NDSDCS, who told the NDSCS Alumni Foundation board, "We don't feel we can work with the current management of NDSCS…"

Jane Krump, Faculty Senate president, related, "There's an atmosphere on campus of the fear of retaliation. Many faculty have voiced concern in speaking out against our president for fear of retaliation." In fact, most faculty members were adamant on the secret ballot the day it decided to fire Hart. "Hart abruptly terminated a faculty member along with a couple of staff in the last six years," according to the *Daily News*.

This is exactly what she did this week, terminating Larry Lee and Kyle Podziewski for standing up strongly on behalf of NMC's governance—students and faculty—knowing Ms. Hart's agenda is the silencing of the lamb for using their first amendment rights. It goes to show her obvious lack of leadership that concentrates on the "we few" power-hungry cronies! Interesting that the Senate staff at NMC voted 19-4 for her firing, yet the board turned its head the other way. Excuse me, Mr. Juan T. Lizama, but isn't this episode worthy of a policy review before NMC falls flat on its face for lack of leadership from both Ms. Hart and yourself? There's a public outcry, *sayu*?

Wade King, an English professor and department chair, said that Hart's speech before she was ousted was vague. "We need strong leadership." Harvey Hendersen, a social and behavioral science professor is concerned about the lack of integrity at the higher offices of NDSCS. "We heard all about values at all the staff meeting, but not much about integrity."

"Emotions ran high during the meeting as many teachers expressed fear of retaliation from Hart. The faculty stands united and all agreed when Krump said, 'the students are our No. 1 focus.' They are today, they were yesterday and we will not let this interfere with that."

Hart is neglecting the primary reason of NMC's existence. It's about the fate of students, true? But then her failed leadership places the future of students at the brink of complete ruination under the shadows of uncertainty of its show-cause status.

Am I making sense? The immediate removal of Ms. Hart isn't an option either for the Board of Regents. Yet her termination must definitely be done forthwith! If the board listens a bit more carefully, you'd hear the muted though loud voices of NMC's governance. If you fail NMC's governance, then perhaps it's equally fitting that you tender your resignation so laser like focus is placed once more on the future of governance—students and faculty—who make up the foundation of NMC.

REBOOTING

From Page 10

lax a precedent for countries such as China and Russia that are likely to develop drones of their own.

So, last week, Obama promulgated a new rule: The United States will use drones only against suspected terrorists who pose a "continuing and imminent threat to the American people."

That's a notably tighter standard than one offered just a year ago by John Brennan, then a White House counter-terrorism adviser and now the CIA director, who said drones could be used against any "significant threat to U.S. interests."

Obama also said drone strikes could now be launched only if there was a "near certainty" that no civilians would be killed, a rule that other officials said has been in effect for some time. Indeed, groups that try to monitor civilian casualties say that number has diminished—in part because fewer strikes are being launched.

Still, Obama ordered a concrete change, one that is in keeping with his overall strategy of reducing the number of wars the United States is fighting. U.S. combat troops have left Iraq and are scheduled to depart Afghanistan next year. And the president has resisted pressure to intervene in Syria.

"This war, like all wars, must end," Obama said Thursday. "That's what history advises. It's what our democracy demands."

But history also reminds us—to borrow a military saying—that the enemy gets a vote. Some wars, especially those waged by terrorist groups, can persist for decades.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 16, Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Sheehan warned that the conflict with al-Qaida is far from over.

"In my judgment, this is going to go on for quite awhile; yes, beyond the second term of the president," Sheehan said. "I think it's at least 10 to 20 years."

Obama would like to see a clear victory over al-Qaida—call it "V-Q Day"—before he leaves office in 2017. He's unlikely to enjoy that luxury. But, with luck, the speech he gave last week will help the nation get there—with less collateral damage along the way.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

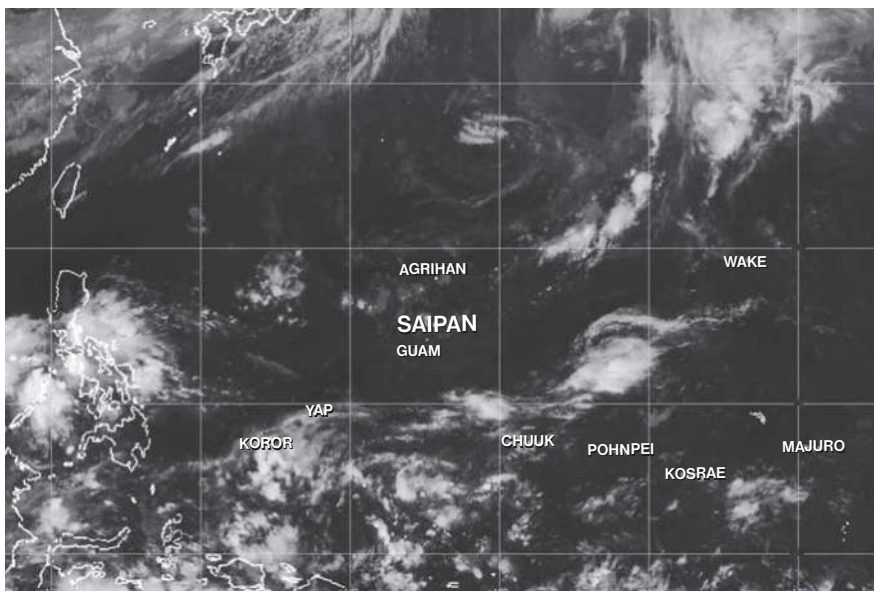
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲93	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼62
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Melbourne	Rain	▲60	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82	▼77
New York	Sunny	▲89	▼68
Osaka	Cloudy	▲76	▼66
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Pusan	Showers	▲72	▼63
Rome	Showers	▲64	▼57
Salem	Sunny	▲71	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼60
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲77	▼64
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲93	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to over the far Northern Marianas at 19N145E then curves northwestward as a stationary front to 25N134E. Convergent low-level winds ahead of the cold front are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Wake Island within 120 miles of a line from 20N156E to 25N161E. A surface trough extends southeastward from near Yap at 9N139E to 1N144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Yap and across portions of the Republic of Palau or south of a line from 3N130E to 10N140E to 10N143E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae and south of Majuro or within 100 miles of a line from 4N160E to 3N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
12:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:38 AM
Saturday	12:16 AM	12:32 PM
Sunday	12:58 AM	1:24 PM
Monday	1:39 AM	2:15 PM
Tuesday	2:20 AM	3:05 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opposed to House Bill 18-78

This is to air out my opposition to House Bill 18-78 relative to the increase of salaries for Rota and Tinian resident department heads from $36,000 to $40,800, as pre-filed by Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Teresita A. Santos.

I think the intent of such a House bill is unfair to those employees who are earning only $10,000 to $15,000 per annum. Employees who are in the low salary bracket should be the one assisted and not the resident department heads.

Let's be realistic. The present salaries of resident department heads are basically enough when compared to the present economic standpoint in which their responsibilities are considered minimal, knowing that the operational forecast within the government sectors on Rota and Tinian will not increase due to funding shortfall. Nevertheless, the increased rate of inflation and high cost of living, especially on Rota, really hurt the low-income government employees with families, more than those of the resident department Heads.

Such spontaneous action in drafting House Bill 18-78 really caught a lot of employees by surprise as the focal point of direction by the Rota Legislative Delegation should be revenue generation to prioritize the saving of the ailing Retirement Fund, CUC, and most of all medical referral. I should expect our Rota Legislative Delegation not to set their course in reverse but rather to seek every means in resolving critical issues affecting our livelihood.

Moreover, if our Legislative Delegation is to persist in raising the salary of the resident department heads, then I will rather recommend that they raise the salaries of government employees across the board. That will be fair and justifiable.

I urge the Rota Legislative Delegation to please focus your efforts on issues that could bring us to prosperity and economic recovery instead of continued hardships.

Tina T. Atalig
Teneto Heights, Rota

Let's clear some things!

This food for thought is in regards to the article titled "Legislature moving in the wrong path for education" concerning Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero's comments. Let's get some things straight:

The blame should not fall only on legislative officials but PSS as well. Be responsible and take some of the blame for your situation, which every other agency has.

PSS is not the only agency that did not get their desired budget. As a matter of fact, the Legislature would also have to cut the budgets of other important agencies just to get at least $31.5 million of their $33 million for next fiscal year. You know what this means. Salaries of hardworking individuals will have to get another pay cut or will not get their deserved raise because in previous years money had to go to PSS. Remember, these are parents of their students.

As for your complaint about "broken promises," wake up, everyone has had their "broken promise" issue. The point of the matter is the CNMI does not have the money. Improvise.

Every year Legislature tries its hardest to find the money for PSS and, if you look through history, they have been giving PSS more and more every year, cutting here, cutting there in other agencies, not realizing that the world outside PSS influences student learning as well. They may not have gotten what they asked for but at least they get a little more every year instead of less.

PSS has past debt because of its negligence in paying those debts on time, resulting in the buildup over the years.

Here is an idea: If students' education is so important, let's see PSS central positions that are getting $45,000 to $80,000 per annum get a pay cut. Slice off some from that pay and that will give PSS some funds to pay for maintenance and student centered equipment. Maybe get rid of those phone contracts that many from central have and use it somewhere else.

The ARRA funds that paid for salaries of $45,000 and up at central do not exist anymore. PSS should have prepared itself to cover those positions and salaries that ARRA previously paid for.

If you were awarded by the federal government $44 million in 2009 and knew there was a condition that you know the CNMI government could not cover, could you not have negotiated with the federal agency in terms of what you could get so that CNMI government could meet it?

Lastly, parents, there is an audit report of PSS that you would be surprise to see what the results are. Inquire about the report when it comes out.

Felisha Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

Get a new nominee

Dear Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz: First of all, you are privileged to serve our beautiful island of Tinian, so please do not destroy it during your term. Secondly, I am writing this letter in regards to the nomination of Mr. Matthew Cruz Masga, chairman of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Mr. Masga was recently nominated to serve the remaining term vacated by Mr. Manny Villagomez as a member of the board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. It is obvious that CPA is in a predicament with Tinian's recent need of a runway to accommodate aircrafts like the 747, among others. Therefore, nominating Mr. Masga to tackle this problem is irresponsible on your part. As mayor of Tinian and a huge recipient of Tinian Dynasty's tax monies, you should be concerned that Mr. Masga's absolute attention should be solely focused on the Tinian Dynasty's current situation, with most recently, the charges filed against the company in federal court. I'm sure Mr. Masga is a good man; however, can you truly expect him to control, manage, and stabilize a multi-million dollar company that may be facing a shutdown by the CNMI government for not paying taxes and resolve the needs of Tinian's airport? If your answer is yes, then please note that your actions and thoughts are irresponsible and blindsided by your political and personal agenda.

There are many qualified and capable persons that can take on the role as a board member of CPA. You do not need a rocket scientist to reason common sense when it comes to the needs of Tinian's airport. They have managers, engineers, and consultants to bring forth their ideas. You need to realize that Mr. Masga is the head person in charge of TCGCC and any miscellaneous agenda must come later, especially with the current state of the Tinian Dynasty. In your 2009 campaign, you and your team members pledged to move Tinian forward. Tourism should be your utmost priority; therefore, resolving the needs of the Tinian airport will alleviate some of the concerns airline companies require to land their aircrafts, which in turn will bring in thousands of tourists.

Remember, this is about the people of Tinian and their livelihoods. Mr. Masga is not the only capable person to serve as a board member of CPA and you know it. Do the right thing, put your political and personal agendas aside and start doing the right thing.

Please reconsider Mr. Masga's nomination and have him focus on the TCGCC. Seek other qualified and capable persons to serve as a director for the CPA board.

Vicente Cruz Reyes
Forest Lake, Minnesota

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High Court rules insurance firm wrongly denied coverage

On May 30, 2013, the Supreme Court issued *Villagomez v. Manibusan*, holding that an insurance company wrongly denied coverage. The case turned on two issues: (1) whether an insurance company could deny coverage because the driver did not have a driver's license and, if not, (2) whether the driver who caused the accident had permission to drive the car.

The case was set in motion when Manibusan, the car owner, gave his daughter permission to drive his car. His daughter, in turn, gave Manibusan's nephew permission to drive the car. Following that permission, the nephew, who did not have a driver's license, proceeded to run a red light and struck Villagomez. When Villagomez asked Manibusan's insurance company to cover her damages, the insurer refused because Manibusan did not directly give the nephew permission to drive and because the nephew did not have a driver's license.

In its opinion, the High Court first looked at the Commonwealth's mandatory minimum insurance statute, which requires all insurance policies to cover not only the car owner, but also any person who has express or implied permission to drive the car. Because the statute intended to protect people hurt in an accident, the High Court ruled public policy prevented the insurance company from denying Villagomez coverage simply because the nephew did not have a license.

The Supreme Court then addressed whether the nephew had implied permission to drive the car. Taking into consideration previous cases and the statute's presumption in favor of finding permission, the High Court concluded that because Manibusan's daughter had permission to drive and then gave the nephew permission to drive, the nephew had implied permission. Because the nephew had permission, the insurance company wrongly denied Villagomez coverage.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Villagomez v. Manibusan*, 2013 MP 6, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme13.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Shalei Terrie Kisa who graduated from Green Meadow Preschool-K3 on May 25, 2013, at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe. Although you are advancing through a grade level, we will cherish every moment as time is so precious as one day you will be graduating from high school and then off to whatever life has in store for you. We will be with you every step of the way. Mommy and Daddy are so proud of you! Keep up the great work our Makkamaleina! God bless and we love you.

HIGHEST GPA AWARDEES

Arvin Dayao, left, and Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, right, pose with their trophies. They were awarded the Highest Grade Point in their respective classes, 5th and 4th grade. Joshua also took home the Highest GPA in 4th to 6th grade level, Elementary Department.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hooray! You did it! Congratulations to Taisha Carmen Reyes! You've worked hard to achieve your dreams! Also in photo, Patrick Reyes (brother) and Letecia "Michelle" Reyes (mother). Greetings come from your Navy Hill BS family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to teacher Beth Capili! Wishing you a day of relaxation and fun. Thank you for all that you do for our daughter Shalei Terrie! Hugs and kisses from the Kisa-Camacho family.

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KIA
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PATA Micronesia launches comprehensive travel website

TUMON, Guam—The Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter has launched the official Micronesia tourism website at www.micronesiatour.com.

PATA Micronesia has launched a fully-featured website that is designed to assist travelers plan a vacation in a region that is renowned for unspoiled landscapes, traditional cultures and the most stunning marine environments in the world. Micronesia is an archipelago of thousands of tropical islands and coral atolls in one of the most remote corners of the Pacific Ocean. The Micronesia website provides extensive content on five distinct countries within the region: Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian, Rota), the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

ON THE NET
www.micronesiatour.com

"Micronesiatour.com is a well-designed, smart-built website [that] officially presents Micronesia to the global traveler by offering branded pages filled with relevant content, images, videos, and tons of information about Micronesia's destinations, in an easy-to-use website that is accessible on traditional computers, smartphones and other mobile devices," said Rajesh "Rhaj" K. Sharma, GuamWEBZ lead consultant and developer for Micronesiatour.com.

The website enables travelers to communicate directly with tour and land operators throughout Micronesia, many of whom do not have an online presence elsewhere. The website also keeps an updated calendar of events, travel specials and promotions for all of the islands.

"The Micronesia website helps to promote Micronesia's destinations collectively by using the most innovative web applications and features, while also connecting to popular social media platforms. If someone wants to learn about Micronesia, micronesiatour.com would be the website to browse first. What is especially exciting about this website is that it can be the bridge that connects lesser-known entrepreneurs from small remote islands to the global customer," said PATA Micronesia chair Pilar Laguaña.

PATA

Ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the launch of MicronesiaTour.com, the official tourism website for Micronesia on May 15, 2013. From left: Rajesh "Rhaj" K. Sharma, Guam WEBZ lead consultant; Mason Fritz, executive member, Chuuk Visitors Bureau; Don Evans, PATA Micronesia Chapter vice chairman, Yap Visitors Bureau; Sam Scott, chapter membership co-chairman, Sam's Tours Palau; Pilar Laguana, PATA Micronesia Chapter chairwoman, Guam Visitors Bureau; Vincent Calvo, MVA board member; Representative Richard Seman, CNMI House of Representatives; Judy Torres, PATA Micronesia Chapter treasurer, Marianas Visitors Authority; Darin De Leon, PATA Micronesia Chapter secretary; Lou Aguon Schulte, PATA Micronesia Chapter membership co-chairwoman, Pacific Island Paradises.

About PATA

Founded in Honolulu in 1951, the Pacific Asia Travel Association is an international, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to contribute to the growth, value and quality of travel and tourism to and within the Pacific-Asia area on behalf of its members. Today, PATA is a global organization, covering over one-third of the globe and represented through dozens of regional and satellite chapters. The Micronesian chapter of PATA was established 1986 as a result of increasing tourism interests in the region. Today, the PATA Micronesia Chapter has numerous public and private sector members from throughout the region. ***(PATA)***

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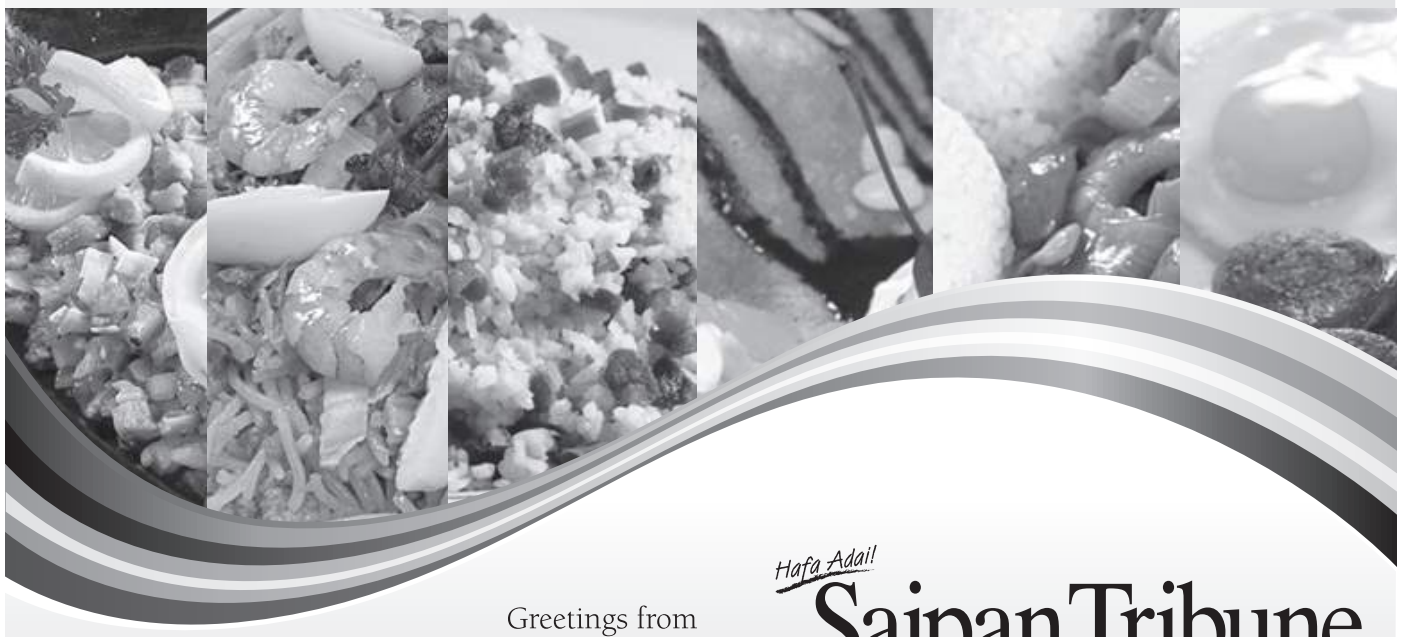

Greetings from
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

200-plus dogs off the streets

Since March, the dog control program of the Saipan Mayor's Office has successfully impounded over 200 dogs.

Tom Borja, the mayor's office dog control program director, said they have stepped up eradication of stray animals since the time the program opened in March.

Borja said they plan to enforce the dog control program more in residential areas. Toward this end, they are currently seeking assistance from the Department of Public Safety, he added. ***(Reina S. Perez)***

Naval hospital to undergo accreditation survey

The Joint Commission and Medical Inspector General inspection teams will conduct their 2013 triennial survey at Naval Hospital Guam and its branch clinics at Naval Base Guam from June 4 to June 7.

The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the compliance of the hospital and its branch clinics with nationally established Joint Commission and Navy standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded to Naval Hospital Guam. This accreditation was previously awarded June 2010.

The Joint Commission accredits nearly 16,000 health care organizations in the United States and many other countries. By asking for accreditation, Naval Hospital Guam agrees to be measured against national standards set by health care professionals.

The survey process offers an objective evaluation of a hospital organization's performance and provides a report card to the public.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. The Joint Commission survey team consists of trained physicians, nurses, administrators and a facilities expert. The surveyors will evaluate NHG's compliance with established standards and identify strengths and weaknesses. The overall goal is not merely to find problems, but also to provide education and consultation so health care organizations can improve.

Patients and staff members may contact a Joint Commission surveyor during this survey and request a public information interview. To make an appointment, call 671-483-0176. Concerns may also be brought to the attention of the MEDINSGEN by calling the MEDINSGEN Hotline at 1-800-637-6175, DSN 295-9019 or via e-mail at NavyMEDIGHotline@med.navy.mil. ***(Guam Public Affairs)***

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US govt asks court to vacate arrest warrant vs casino manager

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government asked the federal court yesterday to vacate the arrest warrant and instead issue a summons for Tinian Dynasty casino manager Tim Blythe.

Assistant U.S. attorney Marivic P. David said they were informed that Blythe has retained attorney Mark B. Hanson to be his lawyer in the case.

David said that Blythe is currently off-island and intends to return to the CNMI and appear for arraignment before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Blythe, together with other co-defendants, has been charged with allegedly engaging in a conspiracy to allow Tinian Dynasty casino gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

"In the interest of justice, the government respectfully requests that the underlying arrest warrant for [Tim Blythe] be vacated, and, in lieu of the warrant, a summons in a criminal case be issued for [Blythe] to appear before this court sometime during the week of June 10, 2013," the prosecutor said.

Blythe, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, Ltd., which owns Tinian Dynasty, and VIP services manager George Que were indicted on May 9, charging them with one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report and nine counts of causing a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report.

Federal agents arrested Que on April 25 and executed warrants to seize Tinian Dynasty property and its money in bank accounts. Blythe was not arrested as he was off-island at the time.

Federal agents reportedly seized a total of $539,969.12 in U.S. funds and foreign and domestic currencies belonging to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. IRS wants the funds forfeited as well as $16,551,492 more in money and other property.

According to the charges, Tinian Dynasty allowed gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing Currency Transaction Reports with the U.S. government since September 2009 to the present.

Federal law requires that a CTR be filed with the Internal Revenue Service by financial institutions, including casinos, for any currency transaction over $10,000.

In May 2012, IRS initiated an undercover operation concerning possible illegal activities at Tinian Dynasty by having two agents pose as Russian gamblers wishing to use large amounts of currency but not wanting to any reports filed with the government about their use of cash.

DeWitt to keynote MCS commencement rites

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The conductor of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Concert Band, William E. DeWitt, was chosen by students and the administration of Mount Carmel School to be the keynote speaker for its high school commencement exercises tomorrow.

According to Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, DeWitt was nominated by the graduating seniors themselves and was immediately supported by the school.

DeWitt

"We are just so happy that Mr. DeWitt agreed to be the graduation speaker. He has had such a positive impact on our community and our students, it will be an honor to have him speak to our graduates," Deleon Guerrero said.

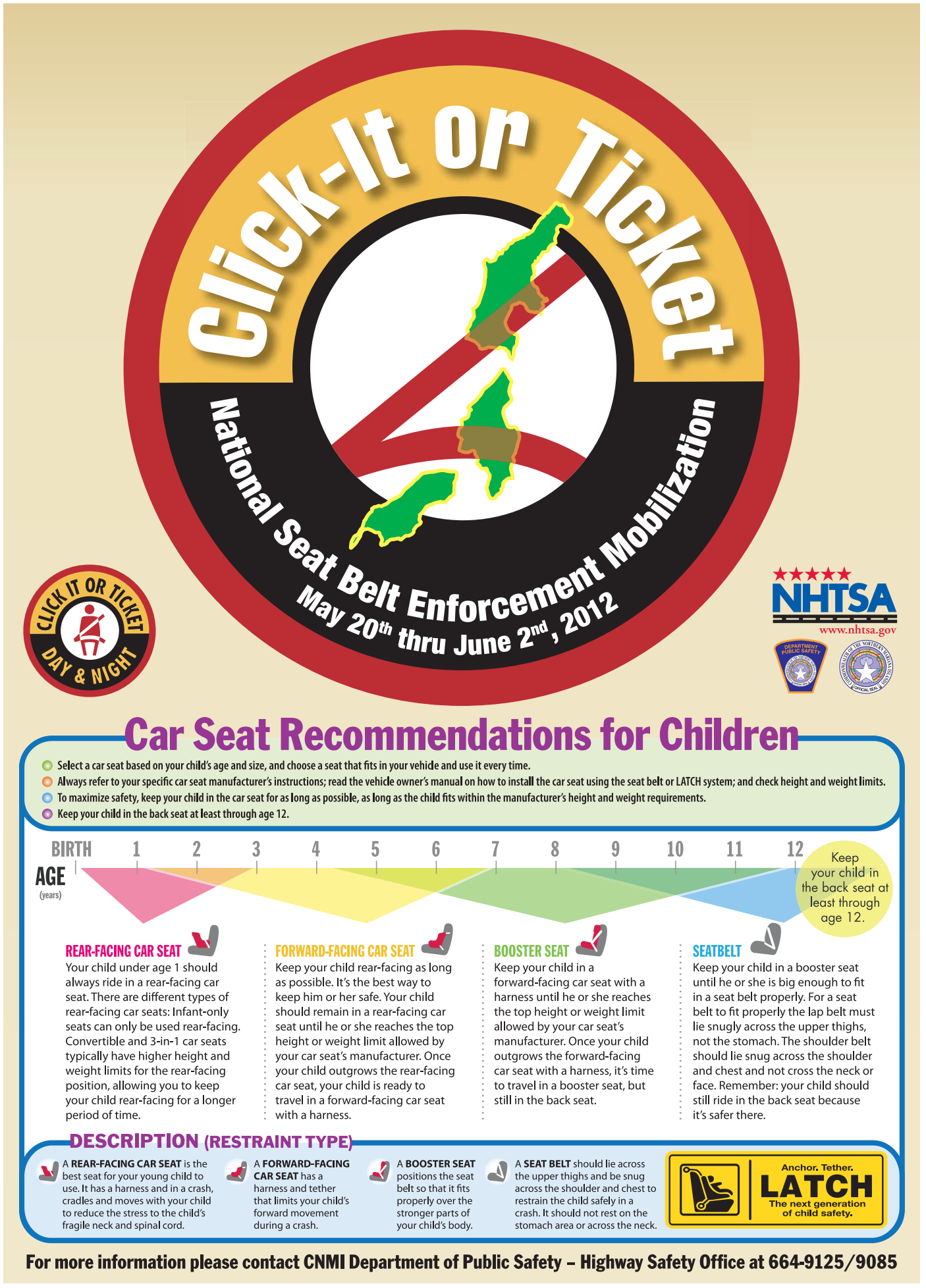
Over the past few years, Mount Carmel School has developed a close relationship with DeWitt. The school's Theatre Club has staged several joint performances with the Manta Ray Band, including William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* in 2009 and *Rapunzeled* in 2010. In addition, several former students from the school have transferred to Saipan Southern High School and enrolled in DeWitt's courses.

According to Anastasia Schweiger, Mount Carmel School senior class president, who herself played lead roles in *The Winter's Tale* and *Rapunzeled*, the close relationship between Mount Carmel and DeWitt makes him a great choice to be their graduation speaker.

DeWitt pioneered the Manta Ray Concert Band in 2002, the same year that Saipan Southern High School was founded. Under his guidance and leadership, the band has distinguished itself with numerous awards and prestigious performances. DeWitt's wind ensembles have performed often at the Tumon Bay Music Festival (2008, 2009, 2011, 2013), earning solid reviews from adjudicators and audiences alike.

Under his baton, the Manta Ray Band toured and performed in Beijing, China at the 2008 Olympics, in London, England at the 2012 Olympics, and in New York City's Carnegie Hall in 2010. DeWitt and the band are currently planning an Asian tour for 2014.

Mount Carmel School high school graduation is set for June 1 at 6pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.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www.nhtsa.gov
Car Seat Recommendations for Children
Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
BIRTH 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
AGE (years)
Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
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Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
SEATBELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)
A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
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A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
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A Mariana fruit bat named Babydoll hangs from a tree at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge on Ritidian Point, Guam, May 20, 2013. The Mariana fruit bat, which dwells on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is currently listed as a threatened species, though it has fluctuated between endangered and threatened in the past.

U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. MELISSA B. WHITE

Save the fruit bats! Andersen continues conservation effort

By MELISSA WHITE
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—There's more than just aircraft flying around the base, and with a mere 3-foot wingspan and fur, they set themselves far apart from the jets occupying the flightline here.

The Mariana fruit bat, which dwells In Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is currently listed as a threatened species, though it has fluctuated between endangered and threatened in the past. With the help of Team Andersen, the goal for the future of this species' waxing and waning population is to recover and steadily strengthen.

To reach that goal, members of the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight led an initiative to make Andersen AFB a safer and more desirable location for the bats. One such effort included constructing a habitat management unit on 152 acres of the base, which was completed in December 2012. The second phase of the project started in September 2012 with an estimated completion of December 2014. Upon completion, there will be a grand total of 400 acres for the unit which will be fenced to promote bat colonies while keeping invasive creatures out, such as brown tree snakes, wild pigs, and deer.

"[Mariana fruit bats] are highly mobile creatures and they are free to move throughout the region," said Jeremy Adams, 36th CES Environmental Flight Natural and Cultural Resources and Conservation Program resources specialist. "We're working to give them a better and more controlled environment by suppressing the brown tree snakes. By doing this, maybe we can show these organisms that our grass is just as green as any other place, and hopefully bring them back to the island."

Some areas of concern that have affected the species' livelihood include habitat loss due to human disturbance and development, poaching and illegal consumption, and possible threats from brown tree snakes. The environmental flight surveys and monitors bat movements on the installation while also gauging airfield noise to minimize the base's impact on the bats and their environment. Adams said part of the project is to plant more fruit trees on base in the future to promote habitat regeneration for the threatened animals.

"Overall, I think we're moving our conservation and recovery program along in a positive direction," said Ruben Guieb, 36th CES Environmental Flight Natural and Cultural Resources Conservation Program chief. "The habitat restoration will definitely provide a better home for the Mariana fruit bat and hopefully their dwindling population will bounce back. There is still plenty of hope for the species to recover and for our efforts to contribute to the future of the bats on the base and elsewhere on the island."

Though Adams said it is difficult to pinpoint the exact population due to tracking conflicts in the past, current estimates leave the total of bats in the double digits for Guam, though the number may reach the thousands throughout other islands in the region. The environmental flight is also looking to have a team of scientists and Mariana fruit bat specialists scientifically monitor, track and quantify the progress of the species later this year.

While Andersen is putting in so much effort to protect these threatened animals, Adams said the bats help the base in return by creating a safer environment. Since the species has declined, there has been a noted increase of trees and plants from wind-dispersed seeds versus fruit and flowering trees dispersed by animals. He said the bats are essential to the growth of those trees which are more fire-resistant than the others, which ultimately would improve the safety of the base. He also said the same effect aids the base's mission.

"We're promoting good environmental stewardship, but at the same time these bats also help us with our mission," Adams said. "Some of the units here use the jungle for their training, but if you want jungle to train in then you need animals like the bats to eat fruit and nuts and spread the seeds so more plants and trees grow."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP13-DPL-127

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 10, 2013 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"LONG-TERM LEASE FOR PUBLIC LANDS IN MARPI AND SAN ANTONIO, SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercially developing public land as indicated below:

1. Lot Number 003 A 11, containing an area of approximately 49,500 square meters.
2. Lot Number 003 A 20, containing an area of approximately 49,505 square meters.
3. Lot Number 004 I 40, containing an area of approximately 40,827 square meters

Lots #1 & #2 are contiguous to each other and have a combined total area of 99,005 square meters, more or less, and are located in Marpi, Saipan, CNMI. Proposers have the option to select only one (1) lot, or combined both lots to prepare their proposal. Lot number 004 I 40 is located in San Antonio, Saipan

The Scope of Work, proposal instructions, maps, and other documents to complete the RFP will be available and may be picked up at the Department of Public Lands Office, located at the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Dandan, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Interested proposers from overseas may request the required documents by mail. A non-refundable application fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US $3,500.00)** is required to be paid at the time of issuance of the Scope of Work of the RFP and related documents. Payment must be by certified or cashier's check and made payable to: Department of Public Lands.

Also, request by mail for the RFP documents must be accompanied by payment of the non-refundable fee in certified or cashier's check, payable to the Department of Public Lands. Payment by mail should be sent to: Department of Public Lands, P.O. Box 500380, Saipan, MP 96950.

The RFP packet issued to proposers will be numbered for identification and shall become the property of the prospective companies or individuals, and may not be copied for distribution to other interested parties. Only those interested proposers that inquired and have paid the application fee directly to Department of Public Lands (DPL) will be issued the official RFP from DPL.

Questions regarding this project must be received **no later than the close of business, June 28, 2013** and must be submitted in writing to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Acting Secretary of DPL at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
2ND Floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Telephone numbers: (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp; rachel@dpl.gov.mp; prasa@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

DPL reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects if it finds that to do so is in the best interest of the public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nasdaq paying $10M to settle Facebook disruption

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nasdaq has agreed to pay a $10 million penalty to settle federal civil charges after regulators said its systems and decisions disrupted Facebook's public stock offering last year. The Securities and Exchange Commission said Wednesday that the penalty is the largest ever imposed against an exchange. Nasdaq also has had to pay $62 million in reimbursements to investment firms that lost money because of the problems. Facebook launched its initial public offering on May 18, 2012 amid great fanfare. But computer glitches at Nasdaq delayed the start of trading and threw the launch into chaos. The technical problems kept many investors from buying shares that morning, selling them later in the day or even knowing whether their orders went through. Some said they were left holding shares they didn't want.

Costa Rica probes Liberty Reserve founder marriage

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—The man who allegedly founded currency transfer firm Liberty Reserve may have paid a Costa Rican woman to marry him so he could get citizenship in this country, which lacks an extradition treaty with the United States, authorities said Wednesday. Deputy director of judicial investigations Gustavo Vega said officials were still investigating the 2010 marriage between millionaire Arthur Budovsky and a woman who local media identified only by her last names of Valerio Vargas. The Costa Rican newspaper La Nacion said the woman has a food stand outside the government's immigration offices in the capital of San Jose. The woman was quoted by the paper as saying Budovsky paid her $800 to marry him and promised they would get a divorce after two years. She said they are still married.

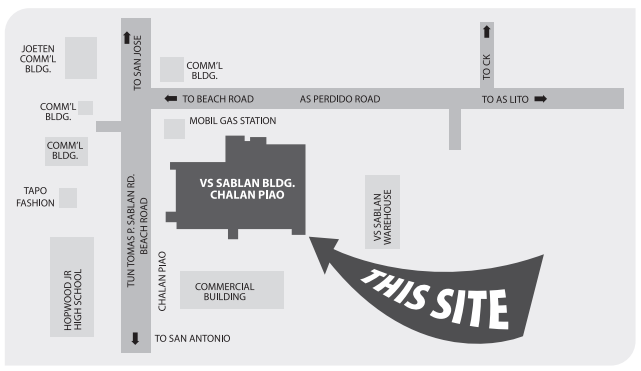
Texas plant to make first US-assembled smartphones

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Cellphone pioneer Motorola announced Wednesday that it's opening a Texas manufacturing facility that will create 2,000 jobs and produce its new flagship device, Moto X, the first smartphone ever assembled in the U.S. The company has already begun hiring for the Fort Worth plant. The site was most recently unoccupied but was once used by fellow phone manufacturer Nokia, meaning it was designed to produce mobile devices, said Will Moss, a spokesman for Motorola Mobility, which is owned by Google. "It was a great facility in an ideal location," said Moss, who said it will be an easy trip for Motorola engineering teams based in Chicago and Silicon Valley, and is also close to the company's service and repair operations in Mexico.

Buffett's Berkshire buying NV Energy for $5.6B

NEW YORK (AP)—Warren Buffett has found another elephant. Berkshire Hathaway's MidAmerican Energy utility said Wednesday that it will buy Nevada electric and natural gas company NV Energy Inc. for $5.6 billion as it expands its footprint in the energy sector. MidAmerican has been aggressively investing in renewable energy projects in recent years, and the companies expect that MidAmerican's experience will help NV Energy develop renewable projects in Nevada, which has vast solar, wind and geothermal resources. Utility companies also have been slowly consolidating in recent years in the face of weak electric demand and rising costs, related to upgrading aging infrastructure and making power generation cleaner to meet tighter environmental regulations. The hope is to lower borrowing and other costs in an effort to maintain profitability.

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Plaza Indoor Bazaar in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM
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Sablan Building Chalan Kanoa
Home of **Pena House Boutique** & the **Bank of Saipan**

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First Floor: Three Units Available. 600 sq.ft. at **50¢ per square foot**.
Units on the **Second Floor** are also available at **50¢ per square foot.**
At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft.
Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35¢ per square foot.**
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At our Chalan Piao Location – Apartment for Rent
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800 sq.ft. $350.00

For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla.
Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.
– 3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay.
44 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking $25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

Warehouse For Lease – 6750 Square Feet with Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 square meters.
Located at our Chalan Piao location.
Asking $2,000.00 per month. Negotiable.

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

AMENDED/REVISED RE-ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED PROPOSALS
ON TWO HOUSES IN KAGMAN, SAIPAN

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) announces this request for qualified proposals on two concrete house structures in Kagman, Saipan.

MPLT Resolution 10-10 establishes the Supplemental Home Investment Program (SHIP). Under the program, MPLT offers these acquired homes in its inventory to qualified persons. The three significant qualification requirements include the following: 1) the homes are offered at the minimum appraised value; 2) each proposer is credit-worthy for debt-service for the amount of the appraised value of the home; and 3) the proposer is certified as qualified as a first-time homeowner with proof of registration as a person of Northern Marianas Descent through the NMD Registry program with the CNMI Board of Elections; a notarized affidavit by the applicant that he/she does not have any interest, whether freehold or fee simple, in any CNMI land; and a verified name search from a title company (current within 45 days) showing that the applicant does not own title to nor hold any interest in CNMI land as a grantee.

A fixed interest rate of 2% per annum and no down payment are permitted under the program.

Notice is given to all proposers that there are no warranties of any kind as to any of the homes under the SHIP program. Homes are presented for proposals "as is and where is" without warranties as to habitability, suitability or fitness for purpose. It is the responsibility of each interested proposer to inspect or commission an inspection of the property.

In this announcement MPLT solicits qualified proposals for two acquired homes located in **Kagman, Saipan**. They are not subject to the right of redemption. Below is a photograph and short description of each home as well as the minimum appraised value. Interested proposers may pick up the application packets at the MPLT Office at House No. 1222, Capital Hill; or with the MPLT Loan Administrator (Bank of Saipan) in Chalan Kanoa. The deadline for submission of proposals for either house is **Friday, May 31, 2013.**

MPLT hereby reserves the right to cancel, modify or reject this RFP and any proposals should the Trustees determine that doing so is in the best interest of the Trust.

Marianas Public Land Trust
Tel 3224401/4402

MPLT SHIP PROGRAM HOUSE NO. SHIP-001
3 Bedroom Concrete House/2 bath, Kagman 2
Septic Tank System
Located across the street from the old DYS Kagman Facility
(future CHC Community Health Center)
Partial Ocean View
Good/Fair condition.
Appraised value is $90,000.00

MPLT SHIP PROGRAM HOUSE NO. SHIP-002
3 Bedroom Concrete House/1 bath, Kagman 3
Septic Tank System
Good Ocean View
Fair/Moderate condition.
Appraised value is $52,000.00

Nation

AP Exclusive: Soldier to admit Afghan massacre

SEATTLE (AP)—The Army staff sergeant charged with slaughtering 16 villagers in one of the worst atrocities of the Afghanistan war will plead guilty to avoid the death penalty in a deal that requires him to recount the horrific attack for the first time, his attorney told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Bales

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales was "crazed" and "broken" when he slipped away from his remote southern Afghanistan outpost and attacked mud-walled compounds in two slumbering villages nearby, lawyer John Henry Browne said.

But his client's mental state didn't rise to the level of a legal insanity defense, Browne said, and Bales will plead guilty next week.

The outcome of the case carries high stakes. The Army had been trying to have Bales executed, and Afghan villagers have demanded it. In interviews with the AP in Kandahar last month, relatives of the victims became outraged at the notion Bales might escape the death penalty.

"For this one thing, we would kill 100 American soldiers," vowed Mohammed Wazir, who had 11 family members killed that night, including his mother and 2-year-old daughter.

"A prison sentence doesn't mean anything," said Said Jan, whose wife and three other relatives died. "I know we have no power now. But I will become stronger, and if he does not hang, I will have my revenge."

Any plea deal must be approved by the judge as well as the commanding general at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where Bales is being held. A plea hearing is set for June 5, said Lt. Col. Gary Dangerfield, an Army spokesman. He said he could not immediately provide other details.

"The judge will be asking questions of Sgt. Bales about what he did, what he remembers and his state of mind," said Browne, who told the AP the commanding general has already approved the deal. "The deal that has been worked out ... is they take the death penalty off the table, and he pleads as charged, pretty much."

A sentencing-phase trial set for September will determine whether Bales is sentenced to life in prison with or without the possibility of parole.

Browne previously indicated Bales remembered little from the night of the massacre, and he said that was true in the early days after the attack. But as further details and records emerged, Bales began to remember what he did, the lawyer said, and he will admit to "very specific facts" about the shootings.

Browne would not elaborate on what his client will tell the judge.

Bales, an Ohio native and father of two from Lake Tapps, Wash., had been drinking contraband alcohol, snorting Valium that was provided to him by another soldier, and had been taking steroids before the attack.

Testimony at a hearing last fall established that Bales returned to his base between attacking the villages, woke up a fellow soldier and confessed. The soldier didn't believe him and went back to sleep, and Bales left again to continue the slaughter.

Most of the victims were women and children, and some of the bodies were piled and burned. The slayings drew such angry protests that the U.S. temporarily halted combat operations in Afghanistan. It was three weeks before American investigators could reach the crime scenes.

Browne said his client, who was on his fourth combat deployment, was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and a traumatic brain injury. He continued to blame the Army for sending him back to war in the first place.

"He's broken, and we broke him," Browne said.

The massacre raised questions about the toll multiple deployments were taking on American troops. For that reason, many legal experts believed it that it was unlikely that he would receive the death penalty, as Army prosecutors were seeking. The military justice system hasn't executed anyone since 1961.

The defense team, including military lawyers assigned to Bales as well as Browne's co-counsel, Emma Scanlan, eventually determined after having Bales examined by psychiatrists that he would not be able to prove any claim of insanity or diminished capacity at the time of the attack, Browne said.

"His mental state does not rise to the level of a legal insanity defense," Browne said. "But his state of mind will be very important at the trial in September. We'll talk about his mental capacities or lack thereof, and other factors that were important to his state of mind."

ACROSS THE NATION

Sources: Obama preparing to name Comey to FBI

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is preparing to nominate former Bush administration official James Comey to head the FBI, people familiar with the decision said Wednesday. Three people with knowledge of the selection said Obama planned to nominate Comey, who was the No. 2 in President George W. Bush's Justice Department. The three people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the selection ahead of Obama's announcement, which was not expected immediately. Comey became a hero to Democratic opponents of Bush's warrantless wiretapping program when Comey refused for a time to reauthorize it. Bush revised the surveillance program when confronted with the threat of resignation by Comey and current FBI Director Robert Mueller, who is stepping down in September. Comey's selection was first reported by NPR and was not expected to be announced for several days at least. Senate confirmation will be needed.

Police: 7 dead in upstate NY crash

TRUXTON, N.Y. (AP)—Seven people were killed when a tractor-trailer collided with a minivan on a rural two-lane highway in upstate New York, police said Wednesday. The rig was headed south around 6 p.m. on Route 13 about 25 miles south of Syracuse when the trailer became disconnected and crossed the center line, hitting a minivan carrying eight people, according to Capt. Mark Helms of the Cortland County Sheriff's Department. The force of the impact ripped the minivan apart, and both vehicles came to rest on the shoulder of the roadway. "It was a bad accident," Helms said. Officials have not released the identities of those killed, but all of them were passengers in the minivan. Two people in the truck were not injured, Helms said.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SECOND AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement and Delivery of Thirty (30) Proximity Fire Coats and Proximity Fire Pants for the Saipan International Airport Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department
Project No. CPA-RFP-005-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement and delivery of thirty (30) brand new Globe G-XCEL Proximity Jacket and thirty (30) Globe Proximity Fire Pants to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all shipping and handling charges and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract, including excise tax. Size information can be picked up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Saipan International Airport's Arrival Terminal. Additional details are as follows:

Globe G-XCEL Proximity Jacket
1. NFPA Compliant
2. Up to 32" Length
3. Seven (7) ounce PBI/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
4. 82 Aralite NP Quilt Thermal Liner
5. Stedair Moisture Barrier
6. Hook and Dee Rings on Inside/Velcro Outer Closure
7. Cargo/Hand warmer Pockets, 2"x 8"x 8"
8. Self-Material Reinforced Elbows
9. PBI Hand and Wrist Guards
10. 13P Radio Pocket on Left Chest, 3" x 3.5" x 9" with Antenna Notch on Left Side
11. DRD Drag Rescue Device
12. Telescoping Cuffs
13. AXTION Sleeve
14. Thermally Enhanced Upper Body and Elbows
15. 7.5" Long Throat Tab
16. All other standard features of the G-X-CEL
17. Up to Size 58

Globe Proximity Fire Pants
1. NFPA Compliant
2. Seven (7) Ounce PBIO/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
3. 82 Aralite Thermal Liner
4. Stedair Moisture Barrier
5. 6" Back Bib
6. 2" x 10" x 10" Cargo Pockets
7. Expansion Knees
8. Flared Leg Design
9. Arashield Cuffs
10. Reverse Boot Cut
11. Replaceable Self Material Knees with Sewn on Frame
12. "H" Back Suspenders
13. Up to Size 58

CPA will not accept any substitutions to the specified jackets and pants. Proposers shall submit based on the specifications listed above only. Any proposals with substitutions will not be entertained.

One original and three copies of proposal must be in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description and submitted to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, June 10, 2013**.

The proposals shall include the following:
- Letter of Interest;
- Delivery timeframe;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format); and
- Valid CNMI Business License.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com by no later than Friday, May 24, 2013.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

May 22, 2013
Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **$2,590,000.00** in LIHTCs for the 2013 program year; in addition, NMHC has **$2,562,097** under the State's Unused Housing Credit Ceiling Carryover Allocation.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, August 30, 2013**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 16, 2013**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **September 30, 2013**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October 2013** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October 2013 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

World

Syria says Assad will remain president until 2014

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's foreign minister laid out a hard line Wednesday, saying Bashar Assad will remain president at least until elections in 2014 and might seek another term, conditions that will make it difficult for the opposition to agree to U.N.-sponsored talks on ending the civil war.

Any deal reached in such talks would have to be put to a referendum, Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem added in a TV interview, introducing a new condition that could complicate efforts by the U.S. and Russia to bring both sides together at an international conference in Geneva, possibly next month.

Drawing a tough line of its own, the main exile-based political group, the Syrian National Coalition, reiterated that any negotiations require "the head of the regime, security and military leadership to step down and be excluded from the political process."

While the Assad regime has agreed in principle to attend peace talks, the opposition has not, insisting it first get international guarantees on the agenda and timetable. The coalition has been meeting for the past week in Turkey but spent most of that time arguing about membership issues, rather than making a decision about Geneva.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Wednesday that while Russia and the United States have asked him to convene a meeting as soon as possible, "there are still many elements that we have to clear." He said there is still no agreement on a date, on who will participate, and on the membership of a united opposition delegation.

In his wide-ranging comments, al-Moallem, an Assad stalwart with decades in top positions, reflected a new confidence by the government. The regime had seemed near collapse during a rebel offensive last summer but has scored a number of battlefield successes in recent weeks.

AP

This Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 file photo shows Syrian President Bashar Assad, seen, during a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, unseen, at the presidency in Tehran, Iran.

UK police: Man charged in UK soldier's murder

LONDON (AP)—Police have charged a man with murder in the killing of a British soldier in a suspected Islamic extremist attack in broad daylight on a London street.

Michael Adebowale, 22, was charged late Wednesday by counterterrorism officers and will appear in court on Thursday, police said. He is one of two main suspects in the killing of Lee Rigby, 25, who was struck by a car and stabbed to death last week near his barracks in southeast London's Woolwich district.

Gruesome images that emerged after the attack showed two men wielding bloody knives and meat cleavers. Both men were shot and wounded by police.

Suspect Michael Adebolajo, 28, remains hospitalized in stable condition. Adebowale was discharged from a hospital Tuesday and taken into custody. Adebowale also was charged with a firearms offense related to possessing a 9.4 mm revolver with the intent "to cause persons to believe that unlawful violence would be used," police said in a statement announcing the charges.

The charges, coming just hours after police said Rigby's autopsy showed he died from "multiple incised wounds," shed further light on the frenzied attack.

Witnesses reported seeing the soldier struck by a car, then set upon by two men wielding long knives and cleavers. Adebolajo, bloodied and clutching a cleaver, was seen in a video boasting about the attack and railing against the government.

The attack has raised questions about whether Britain's intelligence services could have done more to prevent Rigby's murder. British officials said the two main suspects had been known to them for some time as part of previous investigations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine economy expands 7.8 percent in 1Q

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine economy expanded 7.8 percent in the first quarter, the fastest pace since 2010 and outpacing China, led by growth in services and industry. Officials said Thursday that the quarterly growth rate was the highest since reformist President Benigno Aquino III took office in 2010 on a promise to fight corruption and cut poverty. Aquino's allies won majorities in both houses of Congress in elections early this month, making it possible for Aquino to push through with his legislative agenda in the remaining three years in power. The Philippines has bucked a regional trend of slowing growth amid recession in Europe and a slow recovery in the United States. It expanded faster than Asian powerhouse China, where the economy unexpectedly slowed to 7.7 percent growth in the first quarter.

No charge against Chinese mother of baby in sewer

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have concluded that a newborn rescued from a sewer pipe in eastern China became trapped because of an accident. They say there will be no criminal charges against the mother—who did not initially come forward to claim the baby. They also say the baby has been released from a hospital into the care of the mother and a man claiming to be his father. An official at eastern China's Pujiang county's propaganda office said Thursday that police concluded the unwed woman did not initially step forward out of fright. The official did not give his name, as is common among Chinese bureaucrats. The unnamed woman secretly delivered the child Saturday in a rental building's restroom. She later claimed the infant accidentally slipped into the squat toilet.

Report: NKorean defectors sent back by Laos, China

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Nine North Korean defectors have been forced to return to their country from China after being captured in Laos, a South Korean news report says. Laos had been assumed to be a safe route for North Koreans leaving their mostly poverty-stricken homeland. Activists say that defectors who are returned to North Korea can be punished or even killed by the regime, considered one of the world's most repressive and brutal. South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the defectors were flown home Tuesday despite a request from South Korea that China not repatriate them. The report cited an anonymous foreign ministry official in Seoul, who also expressed strong regret over the Chinese decision. The foreign ministry declined to confirm the report.

Terror remains for Salvadorans despite gang truce

ILOPANGO, El Salvador (AP)—Young men come around once a week to collect $20 from store owner Carlos Tevez, the "tax" he pays to continue operating his business and to keep his family safe.

The routine hasn't changed, despite a truce between Salvadoran street gangs that officials say has caused a dramatic drop in killings in the country.

While there may be more peace for gang members, average Salvadorans such as Tevez still live under a reign of terror. It's a cautionary example for people in neighboring Honduras, where a similar truce was announced on Tuesday.

"They still come to collect rent, demand things without paying," said Tevez, who runs a small convenience store in the town outside of the capital of San Salvador. "All of a sudden they've started asking for rice, beans, whatever they feel like. If I don't give it to them, they will kill me."

Officials say murders have dropped 52 percent in El Salvador, where an average of 14 people a day were killed before the March 2012 truce. The same gangs announced a similar agreement on Tuesday in Honduras, where an estimated 20 people die daily in what is called the most dangerous country in the world. The experience of their neighbors gives Hondurans little hope that their everyday lives will suddenly change.

"We won't believe it until we see it," said Honduran Roberto Zelaya, 32, among the countless taxi drivers forced to make extortion payments just to work. "They come to the taxi stand, leave a telephone and then call to let us know what day they will come by to collect their rent ... no one is going to let go of this gold mine very easily. It's us who need help, not them."

The gangs acknowledged on Tuesday that the truce will not immediately end extortion in Honduras.

"Let's go step by step," said a Mara Salvatrucha spokesman who gave his name only as Marcos. Talking to reporters on Tuesday from his Honduras jail cell, Marcos noted that for now there still is no legitimate work or rehabilitation for thousands of gang members.

Gangs in El Salvador, too, openly admit they will continue to extort and threaten residents of the areas they control. The groups now count about 70,000 members in El Salvador alone, mostly young men, with about 9,000 of them in prison, where they continue to serve as leaders and run gang activities outside.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-13-2321

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Closing Date: June 21, 2013 Time: 4:30 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com. Interested proposers are invited to attend a pre-proposal meeting on Friday May 31, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA conference room in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 501304 Saipan, MP 96950-1304
(670) 664-8500/01 (670) 664-8540 (fax)
environment@deq.gov.mp www.deq.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

SMOKE TESTING WILL BEGIN FOR STORM DRAINS IN GARAPAN

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would like to inform you that a joint work crew from DEQ and CUC will be in your area from June 10th until August 12th conducting smoke testing in the stormwater drainage system. The smoke testing is meant to identify sources of pollution which lead to a high number of red flagged beaches (high level of fecal bacteria) within the Garapan area. To help protect you, your family, the community and our visitors from water pollution, DEQ is asking for the whole community's cooperation with our program so that we can continue to enjoy our beautiful beaches.

The smoke you may see coming from storm drain inlets or holes in the ground is NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING and WHITE TO GRAY IN COLOR. It HAS NO ODOR and CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD. The smoke should not enter your home or come out of the vent stacks on your building unless you have defective plumbing. If smoke enters your building, immediately contact our crews working in the area or call DEQ at 664-8500.

If you have any further questions regarding this public notice, please feel free to contact DEQ at (670) 664-8500 and ask for Ms. Kaitlin Mattos. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in protecting our environment.

Off the Wall

South Africa: Soweto resident shows off her snakes

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Tourists have long flocked to the home-turned-museum of former President Nelson Mandela on Vilakazi Street, a lively strip of restaurants, curio sellers and street performers in the South African township of Soweto. Now the area has a growing attraction: big snakes, and lots of them.

Resident Lindiwe Mngomezulu allows curiosity-seekers to get a close-up look at the non-venomous snakes she keeps in her home, and she drapes them over tourists' shoulders for a small fee. She and her 19-year-old daughter, Nolwandle Duma, started raising snakes three years ago after going to see a snake show and coming away impressed.

Mngomezulu, 55, has two albino pythons, a Burmese python, a boa constrictor, an anaconda and a corn snake. It costs about $30 a week to feed them. She and Duma also own a bearded dragon lizard and two spiders.

AP

Photo taken Tuesday May 14, 2013 of Nolwandle Duma with "Landi" a Boa Constrictor snake draped around her neck outside the home she shares with her mother in Soweto, South Africa.

They show off their snakes in their Vilakazi Street home, where tourists and local schoolchildren have become regulars. Mngomezulu said many have since overcome their fear of reptiles, which she described as harmless if handled with care. She urged people not to think of snakes as a menace.

"People are killing snakes every day," Mngomezulu said. "That's not right."

Her smallest snake, the corn snake, measures 1.2 meters (3.9 feet). The Burmese python is 3 meters (9.8 feet) long and, at 30 kilograms (66 pounds), is her heaviest snake.

Mngomezulu said her goal is to expand her snake show beyond Soweto. She is awaiting a permit that would allow her to take her snakes to non-residential areas and hopes money raised can help her to buy more snakes and get formal training from a recognized association. She is registered with the West Rand Herpetological Association, a local club for reptile lovers.

Andre Lourens, the association's chairman, said Mngomezulu's show has been instrumental in dispelling the false notion that all snakes are dangerous.

"They are no more dangerous than any dogs running down the streets, if you take into consideration the amount of dog bites here in South Africa or number of people hit by lightning," Lourens said.

Duma is saving money for university, where she plans to study zoology or psychology. She said she hopes her experience interacting with the reptiles and educating people about them could lead to a long-term career working with animals.

Engineering students use dance to solve problems

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP)—Engineering students at Northwestern University are getting a leg up on the competition. They're learning to swing dance in a for-credit class called Whole Body Thinking.

Joe Holtgreive, an assistant dean at the McCormick School of Engineering, started the class to help future engineers break outside their comfort zone.

Holtgreive says the course, led by Northwestern University Professor of Dance Billy Siegenfeld (SEE'-gen-feld), is teaching students known for left-brain thinking to use more of the right side of their brains.

The students include biomedical, mechanical and chemical engineering majors who say they're learning more than dance. They say the class is teaching them to think on their feet and work collaboratively with dance partners - skills they say will help make them better engineers.

See the video here: http://bit.ly/12O445R

Ethiopia diverts Nile flow, Egypt says no impact

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Ethiopia started to divert the flow of the Blue Nile river to construct a giant dam on Tuesday, according to its state media, in a move that could impact the Nile-dependent Egypt.

The official Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency quoted Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnin as telling officials at a ceremony diverting flow at the dam construction site that the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will provide hydroelectricity, not only for Ethiopia but also for neighboring countries.

Downstream nations Egypt and Sudan have objected to the construction, saying it violates a colonial-era agreement which gives Egypt nearly 70 percent of Nile River waters. Egypt says its population of 90 million is among the largest in Africa and that unlike other Nile Basin countries, it does not have readily available alternative water sources.

Ethiopia says the dam will not affect Egypt and that the 1959 agreement ignores the needs of five upriver countries. Some 84 percent of the water from the world's longest river originates in Ethiopia.

The Blue Nile is one of two major tributaries of the river. The White Nile, flowing through Sudan, is the other.

Egypt's presidency said Tuesday that it is awaiting a report by the Tripartite Nile Basin Committee, comprised of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia, to determine its next steps.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

German clinic: Man had pencil in head for 15 years

BERLIN (AP)—German doctors say a man spent 15 years with a pencil in his head following a childhood accident. Aachen University Hospital says the 24-year-old man from Afghanistan sought help in 2011 after suffering for years from headaches, constant colds and worsening vision in one eye. A scan showed that a 10-centimeter (4-inch) pencil was lodged from his sinus to his pharynx and had injured his right eye socket. The unnamed man said he didn't know how the pencil got there but recalled that he once fell badly as a child. The German doctors removed the pencil and say the man has recovered.

Ohio man, 87, skydives to aid sick great-grandson

WAYNESVILLE, Ohio (AP)—An 87-year-old World War II veteran has parachuted from a plane in an Ohio to support his ailing great-grandson. Clarence Turner of Fairfield made the jump Saturday with an instructor. He says he wanted to generate attention for the plight of 10-month-old Julian Couch, who suffers from a lung disease that could require a transplant. WLWT of Cincinnati reports that Julian is hospitalized in Columbus. A fundraiser is planned for June 2. Turner also made a jump at age 85 to fulfill a goal to experience freefalling and landing as he did in the Army. He served from 1944-47, and his last jump was in Japan. Turner says he also hopes to someday make a parachute jump at an older age than former President George H.W. Bush, who's 88.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Antonio Santos Salas

August 24, 1956 – May 26, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Atanacio Salas
†Maria Santos Salas

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: **Rosalina (Sally) Ong Salas**

Children: **Jermaine** Salas; **Franklin** Aldan; **Anna** Mendiola; **Antonnette** Salas; **Clarence** Lee

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

Martin and †Therese Salas, **Vicente** and Rita Salas, **Emmanuel** and Linda Salas, **Jose** Salas, **William** and Yvonne Salas, **Ramon** and Dorinda Salas, **Joaquin** and Corazon Salas, **Keiko** and Diego San Nicolas, **Cynthia** Rodeo, **Sylveria** Salas, **Melinda** and Augustin Naputi

Alexander Ong, Noelito Ong, Jonathan Ong, Jocelyn Ong, Nancy Ong

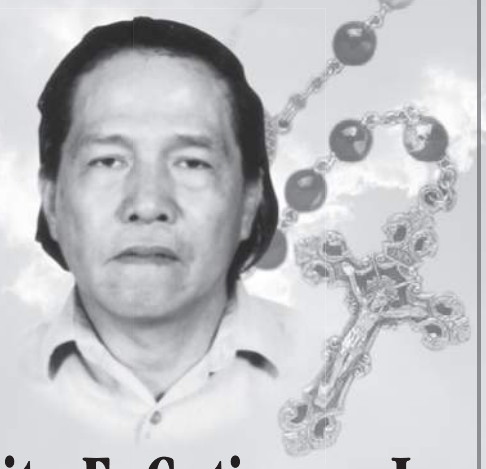
Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each morning at 06:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, June 03, 2013. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 08:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

The Family

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Angelito E. Gutierrez Jr.

Born on April 10, 1949 and was called to eternal rest on May 26, 2013 at the age of 64.

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his, Wife, Children, numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and In-Laws.

On Tuesday, June 04, 2013, at 3:00pm, his remains will be escorted from CHC to his residence in Koblerville. Viewing and last respects will be held from 4:00pm.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 10:00am. Interment service will be held at the Tanapag Cemetery at 11:30am.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

The Family

Science & Technology

High-tech gifts to update the low-tech dad

By RON HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dads will surely enjoy the Kohler Moxie shower head.

ATLANTA (AP)—Father's Day gifts have morphed over the years. It used to be a tie, a golf hat or a jazz CD. But dads are more tech-savvy these days.

There are plenty of new gadgets on the market to keep them busy, regardless of their interest or hobbies. The cool new products we've selected range in price from $10 to $1,600. There are music players for the shower, tools to help the budding guitarist and even a flask that doesn't hold alcohol.

We know what our fathers like. Here's a guide to some tech gifts that may help them do what they like even better.

■ **Moxie** ($200, Kohler Co.)

Your dad is likely going to tilt his head to inspect this gadget, then laugh a bit at it, then love it. The Moxie is a waterproof, wireless speaker snookered into a specially designed showerhead and held in place by magnets. The showerhead mounts onto the common pipes found in most shower plumbing hardware, but similarities to a regular showerhead end there.

One button turns it on. The speaker then plays music from your smartphone or tablet via a Bluetooth wireless connection. Sound quality is exceptional, and the build and look of the Moxie is top notch.

Buy earplugs if you can't stand Dad singing along.

■ **VivoTab Smart** ($500, AsusTek Computer Inc.):

If you want to spring for a new tablet computer for Dad, but think the iPad is too commonplace, you would do well to consider the VivoTab Smart from Asus. It offers a vivid, 10.1-inch display, plenty of social networking apps and the bonus of running the Windows 8 operating system for more demanding applications. This is the full version of Microsoft's system, not the lightweight Windows RT that can run only apps specifically designed for it. There are plenty of free and paid apps for Windows 8, and the list is growing.

The VivoTab Smart is light and well designed. It comes with a thin, wireless keyboard and a sleeve that doubles as a stand for the tablet. It has a powerful Intel processor and Bluetooth to keep Dad connected to the aforementioned Moxie, or similar wireless speakers.

One of the best features is the camera. The tablet's 8-megapixel camera boasts an impressive F/2.2 aperture lens for low-light shooting.

■ **Toddy Smart Cloth** ($10, Toddy Gear) **and the Toddy Wedge** ($15):

All that texting and swiping can take its toll in the form of oily finger smudges on your tablet or smartphone. Here's a better solution than cleaning it with a T-shirt: a microfiber cleaning cloth with colorful and customizable designs. A few quick circles wiped away all the smudges from several devices I dirtied up.

The Toddy Wedge goes one step further in providing the same cleaning material wrapped around a beanbag-like wedge that also serves as a stand for your phone, e-reader or tablet. It's a lot better than laying your device down flat on a desk and risking scratching up its back.

Toddy will even customize the cloths with photos of the kids, the family or Kate Upton. I mean Mom, of course.

■ **Nikon D7100** ($1,600 with the 18-105 millimeter kit lens or $1,200 for the body only, Nikon Corp.):

If Dad is still using phones or point-and-shoot cameras, now is the time to set him on the right path. Splurge on the Nikon D7100, a full-powered, interchangeable-lens camera commonly known as a DSLR, for digital single-lens reflex. The D7100 offers so much value, it's hard to know where to begin.

Consider its 51-point autofocus system. This could quickly become Dad's best friend, despite the fact that he'll learn more about proper shooting by going into full manual mode. The auto focus is fast and accurate. The D7100 has a 24-megapixel sensor that delivers vivid contrast and color in default mode, without any custom setting enhancements. Ergonomically, if feels good in the hands and is light enough not to wear down your wrists when shooting over a long period of time.

It also shoots full high-definition video at 1,920 by 1,080 pixels. It offers a steep range of ISO speeds for low-light photography. Other notable features include dual SD card slots, solid stereo sound recording and an HDMI-out port for viewing captured images and video on a TV or other large screen.

■ **GolfSense** ($130, GolfSense Inc.):

No Father's Day gift guide would be complete without something to help Dad break 100 on the golf course. GolfSense is a small device that clips on to a golf glove and analyses the player's swing. It measures the speed of the swing, the plane and arc of the swinging motion and the tempo. The information is then transmitted to a phone or a tablet, where Dad can quickly view results in an app. Dad can use it at the driving range or during a real round of golf for feedback that is more specific than a buddy telling him, "I think you sliced it."

In Celebration of her new life,

Cecilia C. Pangelinan

Born to Life: September 22, 1955 • Born to Eternal Life: May 23, 2013

In her passing, she now joins: her husband Ignacio Ogo Pangelinan, her parents Lorenzo Tudela Camacho and Victoria Chargualaf Camacho, her mother-in-law Maria Ogo Pangelinan, her sisters-in-law Lydia L. Pangelinan, and Anna P. Meno and her best friends Mr. John and Vicky Borja Aguon.

She will be missed by her:

CHILDREN
Larry Joseph C. Pangelinan *Daughter:* Lareina C. Pangelinan
Ignacio C. Pangelinan, Jr. (Stacey)
Victoria C. Pangelinan
Vacian C. Pangelinan (Dustian) *Son:* Jake Ryan
Lianny C. Pangelinan (April) *Son:* Kainoah Joseph

REARED CHILDREN
Lawrence S. Camacho (Marjorie) *Children:* Roque, Keoni, Mika'i, Cecilia
Lionel C. Sanchez (Amy) *Children:* Lionel Jr., Austin Josh, Neveah, Quiara, Kayden
Alvin John Kisa (Josephine) *Children:* Ayden, Angelina Jenay, Barnabe Jr., Maryann
Elaine C. Santos (Derek) *Children:* Mori Taro, Hitomi Rosa, Yukimo Riyomi, Goashiro Pedro Jose
Leila Lorraine Sakisat Camacho (Joseph) *Children:* Lorenzo Jose, Jesus Pedro
Kenneth C. Kisa (Arsanti) *Son:* Takumi Poespo
Wendell Velandres (Katrina)

BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND IN-LAWS
Mr./Mrs. Antonio Ch. & Maria DLC. Camacho & Family
Mr./Mrs. Jose Ch. & Rita S. Camacho & Family
Mr./Mrs. Felix B. & Trinidad C. Kisa & Family
Mr./Mrs. Jose N. & Magdalena C. Santos & Family
Mr./Mrs. Jesus DLG. & Ramona C. Sanchez & Family
Mr./Mrs. Juan O. & Aida B. Pangelinan & Family

BEST FRIENDS
Mr./Mrs. Mark Quitugua (Denang)

SPECIAL FRIEND
Kenneth Ambrose

The Children and family would like to extend and acknowledge those who have aided in the medical treatments and care of their mother before her peaceful passing
Dr. Stanley Kim – Upland Chemo California (*Upland, CA*)
Dr. Dennis Kim – Loma Linda Hospital (*Murrieta, CA*)
Dr. John Kim – San Antonio Hospital (*Upland, CA*)
Dr. Smith and C side Nurses – Commonwealth Health Center (*Saipan, MP*)
Hope Hospice (*Murrieta, CA*)
Honda Cars of Corona (*Corona, CA*)

To all the nuns from Washington, Florida, Mercederian CNMI Saipan, friends of the St. Jude Catholic Church on Saipan, and the Techa in California Mrs. Marlynn P. Jones (Meng) and Rita M. Celis (Lily) in Saipan and to all the families and friends and to all those who supported her with their prayers most especially during her most difficult time of sickness.

Daily mass and rosary will continue at the St. Jude Church until June 3rd, 2013. On Friday May 31st mass is at 6pm followed by rosary. On Saturday June 1st mass will be at 7am and the rosary at 7pm. On Sunday June 2nd mass will be at 8am and rosary will be at 7pm. On Monday June 3rd mass is at 6pm followed by rosary.

The remains of Cecilia will arrive on June 3rd at 12:45am and will be escorted to the Borja Funeral Home, rosary and family viewing will follow.

On June 4th her remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso will be at 8:00am followed by public viewing. Mass of the Christian burial will be at 10:30am followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

THANK YOU YAN SI YU'US MA'ASE FOR YOUR PRAYERS
FROM THE FAMILY

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved,

†Crispin Matagolai Kaipat
"CRIS"

We the family, of the late Crispin Matagolai Kaipat would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved Husband/Father's passing unto eternal life.

Mass of intention for our beloved †Crispin Matagolai Kaipat will be celebrated daily at St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 6:00pm. Beginning Sunday, June 02, 2013 mass will be offered at 8:00am. From Monday-Saturday mass will be offered at 6:00pm. On Sunday, June 09, 2013 mass will be at 8:00am.

Holy Rosary is being said nightly at 7:30pm at the family residence in Koblerville, Adobu Dr.

On the final day Monday, June 10, 2013. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00pm at St. Jude Church. Dinner will be served immediately after Mass at the residence of Maggie DLR. Kaipat in Koblerville.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated

Thank You, Olomwaay, & Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Maggie, Shawn, Tati & Family

Life & Style

HBO's VICE crew surprised by North Korean leader

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. documentary crew that accompanied basketball star Dennis Rodman to North Korea over the winter says it had no idea it would meet the reclusive country's young leader, Kim Jong Un, until he showed up at a basketball game it was filming.

The media company VICE arranged the trip and invited Rodman after its first choice, Michael Jordan, expressed no interest. A 30-minute documentary on the unexpected bit of basketball diplomacy will air on June 14 on HBO as the final episode of VICE's first season. It was previewed for reporters on Wednesday.

The North Korean leader loves basketball so much that he overlooked the government's antipathy for VICE founder Shane Smith, who had made two critical documentaries on the country, and invited the crew in. Smith wasn't allowed back, but VICE's Ryan Duffy accompanied Rodman and three members of the Harlem Globetrotters traveling basketball troupe.

"We just wanted to make a good documentary," Smith said in an interview. "We didn't do it as a stunt."

Duffy quickly learned his place. One of the first things one of his "tour guides" told him was, "I know who you are. I don't like you, and I don't like your company," he said Wednesday. The crew was told when it could turn on its cameras and when they had to be off, and it feared landing in a North Korean prison if it didn't comply, he said.

AP

This undated publicity image released by HBO shows former NBA basketball player Dennis Rodman, right, with North Korea's Kim Jong Un at a basketball game from an episode of the documentary series "Vice." The season final episode will air on on June 14 at 11 p.m. EST on HBO.

The North Koreans did not go through the roughly 36 hours of footage shot by the crew.

Duffy said the group was surprised when Kim arrived to watch a game with the Globetrotters and members of a North Korean youth team. Rodman sat in the stands watching with Kim. After the game, the VICE crew and players were rushed across the capital, Pyongyang, for a dinner with Kim and other members of the North Korean government.

Although Rodman was key to securing the visit, he's only a bit player in VICE's documentary. Smith said Rodman declined to be interviewed about the trip by VICE afterward.

VICE hasn't spoken to anyone in the Obama administration about the trip, Smith said. During the trip, the administration had refrained from commenting about it.

Amazon to make 2 original comedies, 3 kids shows

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Amazon.com Inc. said Wednesday that it will produce a pair of new comedy shows and three new kids shows for viewing on its video streaming service, capping a one-of-a-kind experiment that gave viewers a say in the selections.

The five shows were culled from 14 pilots that were put up for free on its website and made available over Amazon's video apps on mobile devices and game consoles starting in April. Executives looked at ratings, reviews and view counts in a process that upended traditional TV show development. Traditional TV studios generally screen pilot episodes before small focus groups and executives before determining which go into production.

The shows announced are Amazon's first original series.

Roy Price, director of Amazon Studios, said he was gratified that the pilots generated hundreds of thousands of views from people in the U.S. and Britain. He said the company looks forward to repeating the process again.

AP

This undated file image provided by Amazon shows actors Joe Dinicol, left, and Sarah Stouffer in a scene from an episode of "Betas," one of 14 TV show pilots being made by Amazon.com Inc.

"Once you have hundreds of thousands of people watch a specific pilot, you're not talking about a focus group anymore," Price said in a phone interview from Amazon's Seattle headquarters. "You're asking your actual audience how they feel about it."

The comedies selected include "Alpha House," created by Garry Trudeau and starring John Goodman. It's about four senators who rent a house together in Washington. Meanwhile, "Betas" follows four friends and the new mobile social networking app they are developing.

The new kids shows are "Annebots," which centers on a young scientist and her robot helpers, "Creative Galaxy," an animated series, and "Tumbleaf," which is aimed at preschoolers.

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Mon.720 PM

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www.REGmovies.com

Emails reflect AEG execs' fears about Jackson's health

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jurors hearing a lawsuit against concert giant AEG Live LLC have been shown emails in which top company executives expressed fears about Michael Jackson's health and the amount of time they had to get the singer prepared for his ill-fated series of comeback tours.

The messages were displayed Wednesday during testimony from AEG Live co-CEO Paul Gongaware, who at one point sent his boss' assistant a message stating the show was giving him nightmares and causing him to break out in cold sweats at night.

Gongaware testified that he was joking, but it was just one of several messages expressing concerns about Jackson's health. Another message from Randy Phillips, the top-ranking executive at AEG Live, wrote after one of Jackson's missed rehearsals that, "we are running out of time.

"That is my biggest fear," Phillips wrote to Gongaware and the CEO of AEG Live's parent company, Anschutz Entertainment Group, on June 20, 2009, five days before Jackson's death.

Gongaware said he didn't agree with Phillips' assessment. "He may have said that, but I didn't agree with that," Gongaware testified.

His testimony came under questioning by an attorney for Jackson's mother, who is suing AEG Live and claims it failed to properly investigate the doctor convicted of causing her son's death. Gongaware and Phillips are also named as defendants in the case.

AEG denies that it hired former cardiologist Conrad Murray, or could have foreseen the singer's death. The company's defense attorneys have not yet questioned Gongaware on the stand.

The company's defense attorney, Marvin S. Putnam, said outside court that the emails reflect the company was concerned about Jackson's health, and expressed those concerns to Jackson's lawyer and manager before his death.

Jurors have seen numerous emails throughout the trial, including several sent by people working on Jackson's "This Is It" comeback shows in which they expressed concerns about Jackson's health. Production manager John "Bugzee" Hougdahl, wrote Phillips in the last week of the singer's life that Jackson was on a downward slide.

"I have watched him deteriorate in front of my eyes over the last 8 weeks" Hougdahl wrote.

Katherine Jackson's attorney questioned Gongaware about whether the company put too much emphasis on the showbiz maxim, "The show must go on."

Gongaware denied that was the case.

He told the jury that he was concerned about Jackson's health, but that he thought "This Is It" tour director Kenny Ortega may have been overstating concerns about the singer's wellbeing.

Phillips also expressed concerns about Ortega, writing to Gongaware's private email address, "This guy is really starting to concern me."

Gongaware testified Wednesday that he wasn't sure who Phillips was referring to, and his boss may have been expressing concerns about Jackson or Murray.

Six weeks before Jackson's death, Gongaware sent an email to an assistant for the CEO of AEG in which he urged her to, "Pray for me. "This is a nightmare. Not coincidentally, I have them now every night. Cold sweats, too. Life used to be so much fun..."

Gongaware said he was joking in the message. "I don't have cold sweats," he said. "I don't have nightmares. I sleep great."

Neil Patrick Harris returns to host Emmys

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS says Neil Patrick Harris is hosting the Emmys again.

It's the second go-around for the TV, film and stage star. He last did the honors at the "Prime Time Emmy Awards" in 2009.

CBS will air the Emmycast live from Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

But for viewers who just can't wait to see Harris in emcee mode, he'll preside over "The 67th Annual Tony Awards" on CBS on June 9. It's Harris' fourth time hosting that show, which salutes the best of Broadway.

Harris currently stars on the hit CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother."

AP

This Sept. 20, 2009 file photo shows host Neil Patrick Harris during the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Courteney Cox, David Arquette finalize divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Courteney Cox and David Arquette have finalized their divorce.

A Los Angeles judge approved the couple's breakup Tuesday after nearly 14 years of marriage. Details of their divorce settlement are confidential.

Cox and Arquette legally separated on Dec. 31, 2011, about six months before the pair filed for divorce. The couple met while filming "Scream" and announced their split in October 2010.

At the time, they said they were committed to raising their daughter together and remained best friends.

Cox gained widespread fame for her role on the TV comedy "Friends." Arquette was an executive producer of her recent series, "Cougar Town," and has appeared in numerous films, including "Never Been Kissed."

The website for People magazine was first to report Wednesday that the divorce is final.

AP

This June 28, 2011 file photo originally released by InStyle, David Arquette, left, and Courteney Cox attend the Beau Joie Champagne Art Of Elysium Dinner hosted by Rachel Bilson and held at Arquette's home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Ringo Starr has a new book: 'Photograph'

NEW YORK (AP)—Never-before-seen photos of the Beatles by Ringo Starr will be included in his new book, titled "Photograph."

An e-book will be published June 12 in conjunction with the upcoming Grammy Museum exhibit, "Ringo: Peace & Love," in Los Angeles, Genesis Publications and Starr announced Wednesday. Select images from the book, which also includes unpublished images from his personal archive, will be displayed at the exhibit.

A limited-edition hand-bound book signed by Starr will be available in December.

Starr's photographs and stories "portray four lads from Liverpool, trying to live normal lives amidst the frenzy that surrounded them," the statement said.

He previously published "Postcards From the Boys."

AP

This June 1, 2011 file photo shows British musician Ringo Starr in Dunsfold, England.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Author Jack Vance dies at his US home

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Jack Vance, an award-winning mystery, fantasy and science fiction author who penned more than 60 books, has died. He was 96. Vance's son, John Vance II, says his father died Sunday evening at his home in Oakland, California. Jack Vance, whose legal name was John Holbrook, published most of his work as Jack Vance, but also wrote under a handful of other pen names. According to the Jack Vance website, a 2009 New York Times Magazine profile described Vance as "one of American literature's most distinctive and undervalued voices. The website says Vance also collected a number of awards over the years, including Hugo Awards in 1963 for "The Dragon Masters," in 1967 for "The Last Castle" and in 2010 for his memoir "This is Me, Jack Vance."

Andre 3000's mother dies 1 day after his birthday

NEW YORK (AP)—Andre 3000's mother died in her sleep early Tuesday at her Georgia home, a representative for the rapper at the firm Sunshine Sachs said Wednesday. Sharon Benjamin-Hodo was 58. She died in Rex, Ga. No other details were provided. Benjamin-Hodo was the founder of The Starlight Camp, a program that supports underprivileged children. It is part of the New Morning Light Missionary Baptist Church in Conley, Ga. She is survived by her husband, Robert Hodo, who is the church's pastor. Andre 3000 was born Andre Lauren Benjamin. He turned 38 on Monday. He is one-half of the Grammy-winning hip-hop duo OutKast and has appeared in several films. He will play Jimi Hendrix in the biopic "All Is by My Side," due out this year.

Warhol lawsuit settled in US

NEW YORK (AP)—A legal fight between the rock band The Velvet Underground and the Andy Warhol Foundation is over. Court papers made public on Wednesday said that a lawsuit brought by the band had been settled. The terms weren't disclosed. The Velvet Underground sued last year after the foundation sold rights to the iconic banana design created by Warhol for its 1967 debut album for use on iPhone and iPad products. The suit argued that the banana design had become a symbol of the band, and that the foundation had no right to license it. Velvet Underground founders John Cale and Lou Reed were named as plaintiffs in the case.

Liberace movie is HBO's biggest since 2004

AP

This film image released by HBO shows Michael Douglas, left, as Liberace, and Matt Damon, as Scott Thorson in a scene from "Behind the Candelabra."

NEW YORK (AP)—A healthy number of HBO subscribers were curious about Michael Douglas' performance as Liberace in the TV movie "Behind the Candelabra."

The Nielsen company said the 2.4 million people who tuned in to the movie's premiere over the weekend represented the network's biggest audience for one of its original movies since "Something the Lord Made" in 2004. Another 1.1 million people saw a repeat of the Liberace movie that began right after the first airing.

ABC's two "Dancing With the Stars" airings last week had around 15 million viewers, the most-watched program on U.S. television.

And Monday's version of the Univision telenovela "Amores Verdaderos" landed in the Top 10 among younger viewers last week, an indication of how young the Spanish-language show's audience is.

Larry King to host a new political talk TV show

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry King is returning to TV with a political talk show beginning next month.

The new program, "Politics With Larry King," will air on the RT America network, a global, English-language channel based in Russia, the network announced Wednesday. No premiere date or broadcast schedule was specified.

RT said it will also telecast "Larry King Now," which debuted online on Hulu and Ora.TV last summer.

Both programs will originate from Washington and Los Angeles. They will continue to stream on the Hulu and Ora.TV websites and will be available on rt.com. RT America will be the exclusive U.S. broadcaster for both programs.

"I have always been passionate about government and issues that impact the public," said King, adding, "I appreciate the importance of providing a platform with real alternative visions for our country's future."

The suspenders-sporting King, who turns 80 this year, hosted a weeknight talk show on CNN for 25 years before it ended in December 2010.

RT America is carried in the U.S. by cable providers including Time Warner Inc., Cox Cable, Comcast Corp. and Verizon FiOS.

New wife's short leash keeps dad away from his young son

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband and I divorced a year ago. We share a 4-year-old son and have a cordial relationship.

Shortly after our divorce, he married a woman he had been carrying on an affair with while married to me. Since their wedding she has not allowed him to enter my home beyond the front door, be alone with me for any reason regardless of what we need to discuss, and he rarely calls to talk with our son anymore—all at her "request."

He has also informed me that she's "not comfortable" with the idea of us communicating unless she is part of the conversation. I think she is being silly and immature, and he claims to agree, but he wants to keep the peace.

I explained to him that even though he may allow her to dictate his life, she will not be dictating mine. If I feel I need to speak with him about something, I do not have to include her. Am I wrong? I am in no way trying to cause a problem in their marriage. I have decided that whatever answer you give I will abide by as I respect your opinion greatly.

NEEDS AN ANSWER IN TEXAS

DEAR NEEDS AN ANSWER: The current "Mrs." is acting more like a jailer than a wife, but then, she knows what your ex is capable of if he gets past the front door or has private conversations with another woman.

This is happening because she perceives you as still a threat. That your former husband allows her to exert this amount of control is unfortunate. The distancing from his son is happening because he is permitting it, and the loser here is the little boy.

You're not wrong, but if the only way your son can have a relationship with his dad is for this woman to be ever-present, then bite your tongue and go along with it for as long as this marriage lasts or your ex summons up enough backbone to set his No. 2 straight.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sisters and I look out for our "Aunt Lil," who is in her late 70s and never had children. Physically and mentally she's fine right now. She quit driving a few years ago, but that had more to do with the price of gas than her driving ability. We run errands for her, take her to appointments, etc.

Our question: For most of her life, Aunt Lil has kept up a steady correspondence with many people all over the world. When I say she has pen pals everywhere, I'm not exaggerating. When the time comes and she is gone, how should we notify her friends?

I think a simple form letter would be fine, but my sisters think each person should be notified individually, either with a phone call or a personal letter. Abby, there are 100 people she writes to and those are just the ones we're aware of! Your thoughts would be appreciated.

AUNT LIL'S GIRLS

DEAR GIRLS: Considering that people live longer these days, I wouldn't write off Aunt Lil too quickly. Because she still has all her faculties, ask HER how she wants it handled. She may prefer to write her own farewell note to be mailed after her death. ("By the time this reaches you, I will have gone to that great stationery store in the sky ...")

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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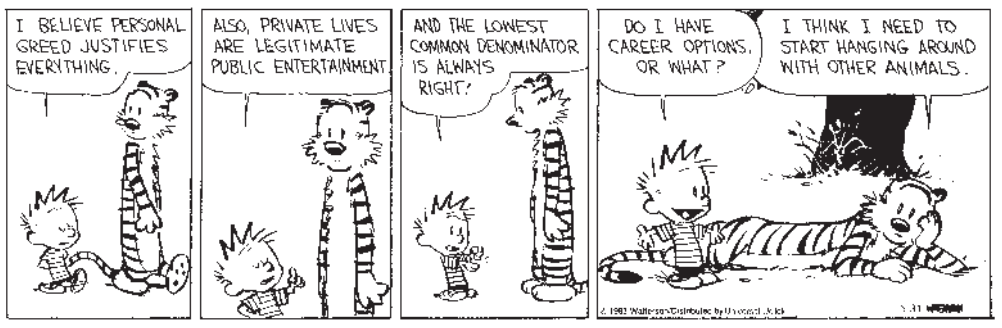
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I BELIEVE PERSONAL GREED JUSTIFIES EVERYTHING.
ALSO, PRIVATE LIVES ARE LEGITIMATE PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.
AND THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
DO I HAVE CAREER OPTIONS, OR WHAT?
I THINK I NEED TO START HANGING AROUND WITH OTHER ANIMALS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

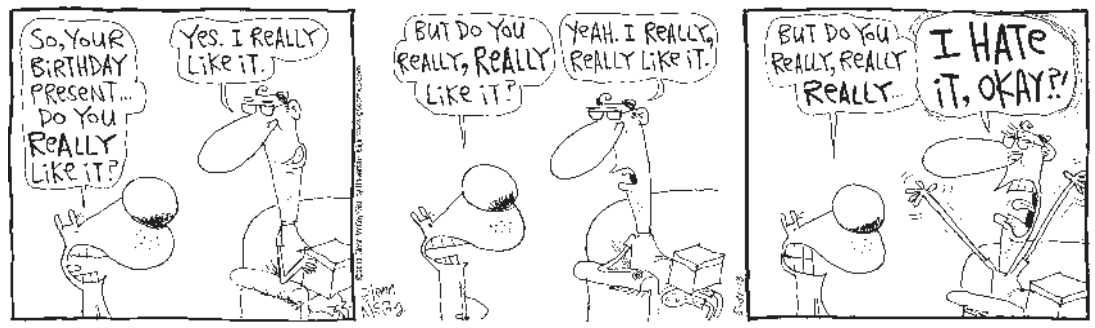
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I THOUGHT YOUR DAD WAS ONLY GOING TO HANG OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
ME, TOO!
I ORDERED WINGS! WHO WANTS A GHOST STORY?
OH, I KNOW ONE.
IT'S ABOUT AN OLD SMELLY GHOST THAT KEEPS HAUNTING A SLUMBER PARTY AND WON'T GO AWAY.
A GHOST WITHOUT A CLUE. THAT'S SCARY.
HE ALSO DOESN'T TAKE HINTS.
OR MANY SHOWERS, APPARENTLY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


So, YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT... DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT?
Yes. I REALLY LIKE IT.
BUT DO YOU REALLY, REALLY LIKE IT?
YEAH. I REALLY, REALLY LIKE IT.
BUT DO YOU REALLY, REALLY REALLY...
I HATE IT, OKAY?!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

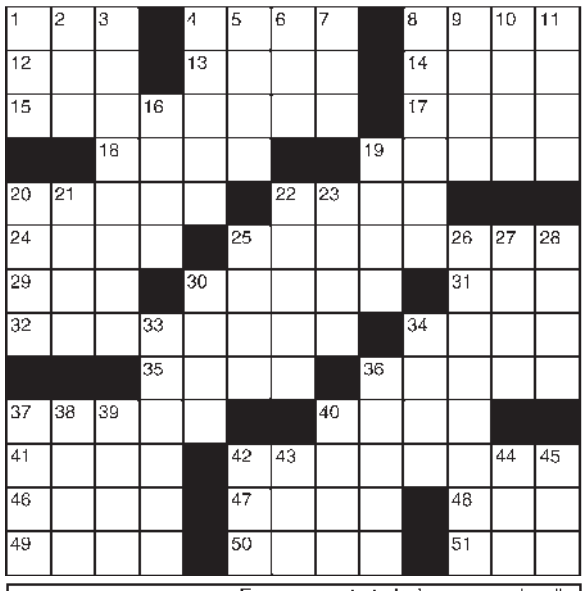
ACROSS
1 Actor Carrey
4 Weapon of mouse destruction
8 Zits
12 Man-mouse link
13 Midwestern state
14 Addition sign
15 The national pastime
17 Node
18 — pro quo
19 British patrolman
20 First lady before Michelle
22 Old MacDonald's place
24 Twistable cookie
25 Fort Dix, for one
29 Sea (Fr.)
30 Gray matter
31 Snapshot
32 You might run on one to get home
34 "The lady — protest too much"
35 Drench
36 Cow catcher
37 Underground chamber
40 Close
41 Villainous look
42 Information storehouse
46 Con
47 Versifier's tributes
48 Baltimore newspaper
49 "Act now!"
50 Prolonged sleep
51 "Of course"

DOWN
1 Task
2 401(k) alternative
3 Costume party guests (Var.)
4 Leg bone
5 Street
6 Piercing tool
7 Crony
8 Poise
9 Organization
10 Unfeeling
11 Catch sight of
16 Continental coin
19 — Mawr College
20 Bausch's partner
21 Vicinity
22 Candid
23 Grenoble girlfriend
25 La Scala showstopper
26 Renunciation of a faith
27 Perches
28 Reverberate
30 Rorschach sample
33 — de corps
34 Smear
36 Tibet's capital
37 Dressed
38 Nevada city
39 Bigfoot's cousin
40 Goblet feature
42 Medic
43 Big bother
44 Seek damages
45 Em halves

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	E	C	K		N	O	W		T	S	A	R
E	L	A	N		A	V	E		R	U	L	E
N	I	S	I		B	A	S		A	B	A	T
T	A	T	T	O	O		T	A	M	P		
			T	A	B	L	E	S	P	O	O	N
B	R	I	E	F		U	R	I		E	D	O
L	U	N	D		V	I	N		U	N	I	T
O	T	T		B	U	G		I	N	A	N	E
C	H	A	I	R	L	I	F	T	S			
		G	N	A	T		A	S	T	R	A	L
C	E	L	L		U	R	L		H	O	V	E
A	R	I	A		R	E	S		A	D	E	N
T	R	O	Y		E	V	E		P	E	R	T

Yesterday's answer 5-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 37; Brooke Shields, 48; Tom Berenger, 64; Clint Eastwood, 83

Happy Birthday: Implement logic and reasoning into your pursuits. Your vision will be easily clouded by emotional incidents that arise. Honesty will play an important role in the outcome of anything you face, good or bad. Your imagination must be used to further your interests professionally. If you can imagine something, you can strive to make it happen. Your numbers are 7, 10, 22, 29, 33, 39, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Let your imagination lead the way. Use your insight as your guide and your dedication and stamina will help you reach your goal. Bring about changes that will improve your overall outlook and day-to-day routine. A romantic gesture will be well received. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do something out of the ordinary for someone in need. Your kindness and generosity will raise your profile and your reputation. Don't debate what should be done; take action. An unusual bond or partnership will develop. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't display or reveal what you are planning to do next. Keeping your personal and professional dealings quiet will help you avoid meddling and scrutiny. Let your charm and appeal help you avoid nosey people. Love is on the rise. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take on a new challenge or get involved in something quite different from anything you've done in the past and you will enjoy what transpires. Creativity mixed with emotional passion and spending time with someone special will be rewarding. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can offer help and suggestions, but don't part with your cash. Generosity can lead to being taken advantage of by someone with ulterior motives. Give time and hands-on help and those worthy of your help will be grateful. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't share your plans with your peers. Someone will take over or try to take credit. An investment may appear to be safe, but take a closer look before you part with your cash. It's better to remain conservative and avoid the stress that risk offers. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen, observe and participate. You dazzle everyone with your unique ideas and vision. Love is on the rise, and making plans to socialize with friends or spend time with someone special is favored. However, don't fall for someone offering the impossible. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a little "me" time. A challenge will lead to self-improvement. Do something unusual or develop a talent you have that brings you pleasure. A change regarding a contract, settlement or investment looks favorable. Leave room for love and romance. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): The emphasis should be on your partnerships. Expressing your true feelings will help you clear the way for better interactions as well as more time to spend with the people who

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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are most important to you. Love is highlighted. Make romantic plans. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Explain your reason for feeling the way you do, and you will be able to make the necessary changes to move in a direction that suits the way you want to live your life. Your drive and stamina will help you achieve your goals. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Plan to have some fun with friends or make a promise or commitment to someone you care about. Self-improvement projects will turn out well and boost your confidence as well as your popularity. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Say little, but listen carefully. Exaggeration and excessive behavior are apparent. Taking precautions will turn any negative into a positive. Use your imagination and you'll come up with an innovative plan that will bring about positive change. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and caring. You are a dreamer and a romantic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7			4		6	
6							5	1
	8	1		3		4		
			2	5	6			
		2		4		9	7	
9	5							4
	3		9			2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	4	1	5	6	3	9	7
9	1	3	2	7	8	6	4	5
6	7	5	9	3	4	8	2	1
7	9	1	8	2	3	4	5	6
3	6	2	4	1	5	7	8	9
5	4	8	6	9	7	1	3	2
4	2	6	7	8	9	5	1	3
1	5	7	3	4	2	9	6	8
8	3	9	5	6	1	2	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FIREFIGHTERS ARE HEROES Solution: 7 letters

E	S	T	A	F	R	E	B	M	E	M	T	E	A	M
X	M	R	L	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	A	(E)	R	A
T	O	E	A	I	O	R	E	E	N	P	N	(S)	R	N
I	K	E	R	B	F	F	E	A	G	D	K	(O)	K	I
N	E	S	M	G	E	E	P	S	T	A	E	(H)	T	A
G	O	Y	E	N	E	M	S	S	T	U	R	S	S	T
U	S	A	D	Z	O	N	E	A	N	Q	I	U	N	P
I	R	E	A	C	H	N	C	I	V	S	W	P	O	A
S	R	L	C	H	I	E	F	I	S	E	A	P	I	C
H	B	U	G	L	E	O	R	A	E	T	R	O	T	H
E	H	A	Z	A	R	D	S	O	E	S	R	R	A	A
L	T	N	E	M	T	I	M	M	O	C	I	T	T	R
M	R	E	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	M	O	C	S	I
E	L	A	D	D	E	R	S	K	C	U	R	T	C	T
T	T	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	S	A	F	E	T	Y

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Alarm, Area, Assist, Blaze, Bugle, Captain, Charity, Chief, Commissioner, Commitment, Company, Courage, Defender, Emergencies, Extinguish, Forest, Gear, Hazards, Heat, Helmet, Hero, Holiday, Hose, Ladders, Lifesaver, Lines, Mask, Member, Missions, Safety, Smoke, Squad, Stations, Support, Symbol, Tanker, Team, Trees, Trucks, Uniform, Warrior

Yesterday's Answer: Earthquake

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36 or 37, cs.1 1-800-642-6460. Order online at wonderword.universalucick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles, including 9 20x20 puzzles.)

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Round-trip airline ticket to Houston, Texas for $600.00. Call John 783-0071.

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Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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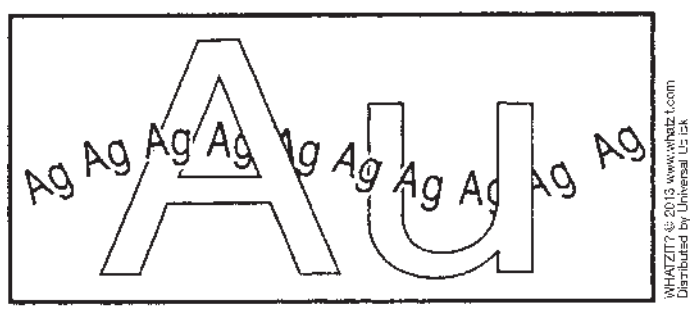

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Now things could get more interesting for Federer

PARIS (AP)—Now things could get a little more interesting for Roger Federer.

After a pair of straightforward and straight-set victories at the French Open against qualifiers ranked outside the top 150, the 17-time major champion will face a seeded player, France's Julien Benneteau, who not only already beat Federer once this year but also came within two points of upsetting him at Wimbledon, of all places, in 2012.

"I think I'm playing OK," Federer said in something of an understatement, considering he's dropped 11 games through six sets so far. "Definitely think the next match is going to be sort of the big test for me, to see exactly where I stand."

There wasn't much trouble for Federer in the second round Wednesday, when he beat two-time NCAA singles champion Somdev Devvarman 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in less than 1 1/2 hours.

It really was something of a laugher, especially with Federer serving at 4-0 in the final set. He hit a first serve well out, and both players waited for the linesman to make a —which he finally did, albeit after a long delay. Federer and Devvarman chuckled, looked at each other, and chuckled some more. As Federer prepared to hit his second serve, he needed to pause because he couldn't regain his composure.

Otherwise, little bothered Federer.

"You obviously know he's capable of doing certain things, and you try and make life as tough for him as possible," said Devvarman, who played college tennis at Virginia. "In my case today, I didn't execute. And sometimes even when I did, I feel like he came up with the better shot."

Federer accumulated a 54-12 edge in winners, in part by moving forward to the net on 30 points.

"I'm happy that I was playing offensive and aggressive tennis in the first two matches, because I had the opportunity, but I didn't back off and start to play passive tennis and wait for mistakes. So I took it to my opponent," said Federer, the 2009 French Open champion. "But really, I think I'll only know more after the Benneteau match, to be quite honest."

AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer returns against India's Somdev Devvarman in their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament, at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

Then again, Benneteau might not quite be the same guy who took the first two sets against Federer before losing in five on the grass of the All England Club nearly a year ago. Or the one who has beaten Federer twice in six meetings, including 6-3, 7-5 in February on an indoor hard court at Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The 30th-seeded Benneteau dealt with pain in his thigh Wednesday during a topsy-turvy 7-6 (9), 7-5, 5-7, 0-6, 6-4 win against Tobias Kamke of Germany. Ahead by two sets and at 5-all in the third, Benneteau dropped 10 games in a row before righting himself.

Even putting that aside, Benneteau explained, "Obviously it's all pretty tricky, (playing) Federer. He breezed through the first two rounds. He plays very well. ... You know you're going to have to really ramp up a gear."

Same must be said when facing another past French Open champion, Serena Williams, who has been challenged about as much as Federer has.

Williams extended her career-high winning streak to 26 matches by defeating French wild-card entry Caroline Garcia 6-1, 6-2 Wednesday. A year after the only first-round Grand Slam exit of her career came in Paris, the American has lost four games in two matches.

Other women's winners included two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka and 2011 Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova—who both finally got to play their rain-postponed first-round matches—along with 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic and 2012 runner-up Sara Errani, who reached the third round. Former No. 1 and 2009 U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki, whose boyfriend is golf star Rory McIlroy, lost 7-6 (2), 6-3 to Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski.

No seeded men lost Wednesday, and so far only one of the top 16 has, No. 5 Tomas Berdych. Joining No. 2 Federer in the third round were No. 4 David Ferrer, No. 6 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 10 Marin Cilic, No. 11 Nicolas Almagro, No. 14 Milos Raonic, No. 15 Gilles Simon, and No. 18 Sam Querrey, an American who was 1-6 in his Roland Garros career before this year and 2-0 this week.

"I'm really excited. That was my goal coming in. I've never made it third round here," said Querrey, who faces Simon next, "so anything past there is great."

The man who eliminated Berdych, France's Gael Monfils, followed that up by beating Ernests Gulbis 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2—and, much like a tourist, Monfils shot some video by which to remember the occasion.

During a changeover, Monfils got permission from the chair umpire to use his phone to film the fans doing the wave.

Monfils explained: "He tell me, `Sure, you can.' So I say, `OK, I will tape it, like, quick."

Later in the day, just as the Court Suzanne Lenglen crowd roared at the sight of Devvarman claiming one game when trailing 5-0 in his third set, the fans at Court Philippe Chatrier got loud when Garcia finally won a game after being down 5-0 in her first set.

"I need to work on my game to pose more problems for her next time I meet her," Garcia said.

Williams won 32 of 39 service points, and while that's become expected, she also showed tremendous touch with a perfect drop shot that barely cleared the net and nearly nestled right there in the clay in the second set's second game.

Williams raised her left fist and looked up in the stands, where her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, shook his right fist.

"I was, like, `Yeah!' I only hit drop shots in practice," she said. "I never hit them in a match. ... It's not a go-to shot."

Garcia is ranked only 114th but much is expected of her. Against Maria Sharapova in the 2011 French Open, she won the first set and led 4-1 in the second before collapsing completely, losing the next 11 games and the match. Her performance was good enough to inspire Andy Murray to write on Twitter that Garcia "is going to be No. 1 in the world one day."

Pacers, Heat prepare for crucial Game 5

MIAMI (AP)—Several times around the start of these playoffs, Miami coach Erik Spoelstra insisted that the postseason path his team would wind up navigating had the potential to be more challenging than the route they took to the NBA championship a year ago.

He's apparently correct, probably to his own chagrin.

The defending NBA champion Heat are in a bit of trouble. They can't get enough rebounds, can't get Dwyane Wade on track, can't get consistency out of Chris Bosh—and will likely see all those story lines either grow exponentially or basically disappear Thursday night, when they host to the Indiana Pacers in Game 5 of a super-competitive Eastern Conference finals that's now knotted at two games apiece.

"We have a great locker room of Alpha competitors," Spoelstra said Wednesday. "And so they take this very seriously. We're playing against a worthy opponent and if we don't play well, they beat us. If they don't play well and we impose our identity, we beat them. That's what this is all about. So let's lace `em up and let's get ready for Game 5."

Game 6 will be in Indiana on Saturday night, while the Western Conference champion San Antonio Spurs keep waiting to see who they'll face in the NBA Finals starting on June 6.

History says the Game 5 winner when a series is tied at 2-2 has a colossal upper hand, though that's an axiom that the Heat both proved and disproved last season.

When the Heat and Pacers split the first four games of their second-round series last year, Miami rolled to a 115-83 home win in Game 5 and captured the series in six games. One round later, Miami lost a home Game 5 of the East finals to Boston, then went on the road for Game 6 and got a virtuoso 45-point night from LeBron James to stave off elimination before coming home and winning a nailbiter of a Game 7 to advance.

Given all that, it's no wonder why Spoelstra said the Heat aren't looking back at any series as a blueprint for how the final acts of this one should go.

"We don't need confidence to go into any game," James said. "We're a confident bunch. We're excited to get the opportunity to go back to our home and play Game 5."

Confidence is not exactly in short supply around the Pacers right now, either.

Indiana came into the series saying—and believing—that it could find a way to oust the team that was virtually preordained as a champion entering these playoffs. That hasn't changed.

"We've got to be at our best," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said Wednesday. "Our intensity, our determination, our focus, we've got to keep getting better if we're going to beat this team."

The statistical trends probably aren't surprising. The Heat have scored 402 points, the Pacers 394. The Heat have shot 47 percent from the field, the Pacers 46 percent. The Pacers have shot 37 percent from 3-point range, the Heat 34 percent.

Miami is better at forcing turnovers, the Pacers are better at rebounding. Miami has forced Indiana into 14 more turnovers in the series, but the Pacers are outrebounding the Heat by 10 boards per game. Pacers center Roy Hibbert is averaging 12 rebounds; Bosh has grabbed 13 rebounds—total—in the series, or as many as Miami guard Ray Allen has despite being half a foot shorter and playing 32 fewer minutes.

"We know what they run, they know what we run," Hibbert said. "So I guess it's more about who wants it more."

Hibbert has had no match in this series. Miami plays without a true center, and Bosh often ends up in the same general spots on offense as a guard would. So at 7-foot-2, Hibbert almost seems like he has permission to do whatever he wants in the paint, and has picked the right time to play the series of his life.

"We don't want to go home," Hibbert said. "Miami is one of the best teams, along with San Antonio, and we know we have an uphill battle and we trust each other and love each other and that's just grown, that love for each other. This is probably the first team I've felt like that about because last year even there were some guys were not all about winning."

That can't be said now.

"We understand that the champs are going to come back and be ready to play at home," Pacers star Paul George said. "And we need to be ready to come out and play well."

Game 5 was a cavalcade of mistakes for the Heat, who had their second-worst shooting night of the entire season at 39 percent.

James fouled out for only the fifth time in his career, though Miami was clearly miffed at some late-game calls. Bosh went 1 for 6 with only three rebounds. Wade, that aching right knee still apparently an issue, missed 10 of his 15 shots. And despite it all, the Heat still had the lead in the final minutes.

"We missed an opportunity to go up 3-1," Bosh said. "But we did get home-court back. We did our job. We have to come out and play with a lot of passion."

Wade, who's averaging an uncharacteristically low 13.4 points in his last 10 games, was more succinct: "Our whole team has to do more," he said.

Being in a 2-2 series isn't the right time for Heat panic over now being in what amounts to a best-of-three, or Heat lament over anything that isn't going their way, Spoelstra said. At one point Wednesday, he took his left fist and right fist, banged them together to make a point, and insisted that the series will simply be won by the team that does enough to deserve a chance at facing the Spurs for the title.

"Our guys have respect for the other team in that locker room," Spoelstra said. "We know nothing is earned easy in this series. We've got to work for it. Being home doesn't guarantee anything."

Zimmerman hits 3 HRs, but Orioles rally past Nats

BALTIMORE (AP)—Chris Davis had four hits from four at bats with two home runs as the Baltimore Orioles overcame three homers by Ryan Zimmerman to beat the Washington Nationals 9-6 Wednesday.

In a wild game before 39,129 fans, each team slugged four home runs and the Orioles rallied from a four-run deficit against one of the best pitchers in the game.

Zimmerman hit solo homers in the first and fourth innings before adding a two-run drive in the fifth, all off Chris Tillman. He got a chance at a fourth homer but struck out in the seventh.

Davis hit a solo drive in the fourth and capped a six-run seventh with his major league-leading 19th homer, a two-run shot off Tyler Clippard.

Johnson (1-1) pitched 2 1-3 innings and Jim Johnson worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Cubs 9, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Dioner Navarro had the first three-homer game of his career, connecting from both sides of the plate at Wrigley Field to lead the Cubs over the White Sox.

Navarro had never homered more than once in a game, but he got his swing going while driving in a career-high six runs and scoring four times. He hit a solo homer in the second to break a 1-all tie and added a two-run shot off John Danks (0-1) in the fourth. He then sent a towering shot to the street beyond the right-field bleachers for a three-run homer off Brian Omogrosso in the seventh.

Cardinals 5, Royals 3

In St. Louis, pinch hitter Daniel Descalso hit a two-run single with the bases loaded to beak an eighth-inning deadlock and help St. Louis rally past scuffling Kansas City.

Luis Mendoza got his first career hit and RBI and held the Cardinals to a run in 5 2-3 innings before the bullpen failed for the Royals, who have lost a season-worst eight in a row.

Matt Holliday and Carlos Beltran homered for the Cardinals, who have won seven of eight and lead the majors with a 35-17 record. Randy Choate (1-0) got the last out in the eighth and Edward Mujica finished for his 17th save in 17 chances.

Mets 9, Yankees 4

In New York, slumping infielders Ike Davis and Ruben Tejada sparked a five-run first inning that kept the Mets sailing along in this surprising Subway Series with a victory over the Yankees.

Tejada hit a leadoff single, Davis drove in two runs and the Mets won with Jeremy Hefner (1-5) on the mound for the first time all season. They've taken three in a row from their crosstown rivals for their first four-game winning streak of the year.

Angels 4, Dodgers 3

In Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver pitched six strong innings in his first start in nearly eight weeks and Mark Trumbo hit a go-ahead two-run homer as the Angles beat the Dodgers.

The Angels tied a season high with their fifth straight home win while snapping a two-game skid.

Weaver (1-1) allowed one run and five hits, struck out seven and walked none in his first home start of the season and 100th of his career at Angel Stadium. The right-hander came off the disabled list, where he'd been since April 9 with a broken left elbow that occurred when he was trying to get out of the way of a line drive at Texas.

Pirates 5, Tigers 3

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez's two-run double sparked a seventh-inning rally that lifted Pittsburgh over Detroit.

Travis Snider added an RBI double and Jordy Mercer laid down a perfect suicide squeeze as the Pirates erupted late against Anibal Sanchez (5-5) and scored four times.

Miguel Cabrera hit his 15th homer of the season for Detroit. He flied out to the right-field wall with a runner on to end the game as Pittsburgh beat the Tigers for the second straight night.

Phillies 4, Red Sox 3

In Philadelphia, Domonic Brown hit a pair of homers, Erik Kratz and Ryan Howard also had solo shots to back Kyle Kendrick as Philadelphia beat Boston.

Kendrick (5-3) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings, helping the Phillies win their second straight against the Red Sox to get within one game of .500.

Blue Jays 3, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Melky Cabrera had three hits, including a two-run single, and four Toronto pitchers combined on a four-hitter to lead the Blue Jays past Atlanta.

Last-place Toronto went with a pitcher-by-committee approach to fill a hole in the rotation. Esmil Rogers lasted 3 1-3 innings in his first start since 2011, and two pitchers just up from the minors shut down the Braves. Juan Perez (1-0) went 2 2-3 innings, Neil Wagner got through the seventh and eighth, and Casey Janssen earned his 11th save with a 1-2-3 ninth.

Twins 4, Brewers 1

In Minneapolis, Aaron Hicks homered again and made another run-saving catch for Minnesota to help Samuel Deduno and the Twins beat Milwaukee.

Deduno (1-1) pitched into the eighth inning, the longest start for a Twins pitcher in more than a month, and gave up four hits and one run. He beat Marco Estrada (4-3), who was done in by a three-run first as the Brewers lost their fifth straight game.

Rays 3, Marlins 1

In Miami, Roberto Hernandez bounced back from two rough outings and pitched 8 2-3 innings to help Tampa Bay send Miami to its season-worst eighth straight loss. Kelly Johnson and Yunel Escobar each drove in a run as the Rays won their fourth in row. Tampa Bay has taken 12 of its last 13 against the Marlins and is an AL-best 8-1 in interleague play.

Hernandez (3-5) limited Miami to just one unearned run and three hits, striking out five. After Chris Coghlan's leadoff double, Hernandez retired 26 of the next 27 batters, including 15 in a row.

Indians 5, Reds 2

In Cleveland, Justin Masterson pitched six solid innings, Jason Giambi and Mark Reynolds homered, as Cleveland broke a five-game losing streak with a win over Cincinnati.

Masterson (8-3) worked out of a bases-loaded jam with nobody out in the sixth to preserve a 2-1 lead. Cincinnati's only run off the right-hander came on Joey Votto's two-out homer in the first.

Padres 3, Mariners 2, 10 innings

In San Diego, Eric Stults had a career-high 12 strikeouts and Will Venable drove in the winning run as San Diego rallied in the bottom of the 10th to beat Seattle.

Venable's third game-ending hit drove home Chris Denorfia from third to complete an improbable comeback after the offense struggled mightily through the first eight innings.

Kyle Blanks forced extras in the bottom of the ninth with a one-out sacrifice fly off Mariners closer Tom Wilhemsen, who blew his second save in 13 tries. Jason Bay homered off Padres closer Huston Street to give Seattle a 2-1 lead in the ninth.

Astros 6, Rockies 3

In Denver, J.D. Martinez hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning and Carlos Pena connected for a home run as part of a three-run ninth as Houston rallied against Colorado's bullpen.

The Astros overcame 12 strikeouts and Troy Tulowitzki's first multihomer game since 2011 in taking the opener of a two-game set at Coors Field.

Paul Clemens (3-2) pitched 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief.

Athletics 9, Giants 6

In San Francisco, Tommy Milone won his second straight decision following a five-start skid, pinch-hitter Nate Freiman had a two-run single, and the Athletics beat the Giants for their sixth straight win.

Yoenis Cespedes hit an RBI triple in the first to extend his career-best hitting streak to 11 games, and Jed Lowrie added an RBI double as the A's (31-23) moved a season-best eight games above .500 for the first time since they were 12-4 on April 17. They won for the 11th time in 12 games.

26 join NMIFA grassroots coaching clinic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel, standing far right, poses with participants of a grassroots coaching clinic held last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held a free grassroots coaching clinic last week at the TSL Plaza and Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Twenty six individuals joined the clinic, which focuses on coaching players in the 6 to 12 age group. Participants learned basic coaching techniques and skills in a one and a half hour and a half classroom presentation and then had a practical session for another one hour and a half.

NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel conducted the three-hour session about a week after coming back from an AFC Grassroots Coaching Workshop in Kuala Lumpur.

"I want to get fresh ideas and coaching tools in the hands of our local clubs and coaches as soon as possible when I return from coaching workshops and courses abroad. That is why I held this coaching clinic immediately upon my return, to keep our coaches up-to-date and further their development," Noetzel said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"It was a great turnout and NMIFA will continue to provide coaching development throughout the summer and fall so all coaches or would-be coaches are encouraged to attend," he added.

The participants agreed, saying they still learned a lot from the short clinic.

"Great class. I wish I knew even half that stuff 5 seasons of coaching youth ago," MP United's Randy Steele was quoted as saying in the same email sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

"I've come to learn the basic fundamentals of coaching, including coaching styles and techniques on how to develop interests of young players in the game of soccer," Shirley's FC's Rose Lazaro added.

Lazaro, Steele, and the 24 other participants received certificates and a GKDP drawstring sack-pack bag for shoes/gloves upon completion of the clinic. The GKDP is NMIFA's goalkeeper development program—a NMIFA grassroots programming curriculum that will kick off next month and will cater to players in the U12 to U18 age group. Clubs are encouraged to send as many of their goalkeepers to the tryouts as possible. Tryouts for the GKDP will be take place on June 14 for U12 and June 15 for U14 and U18, with the time and location to be announced later. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Onoue tops CWGA May tournament

Shiori Onoue won this month's edition of the CNMI Women's Golf Association's ace of the month tournament after shooting a 1-under net score last May 11 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Onoue scored a 39 in the front and a 37 in the back for a gross score of 76, which minus her miniscule five handicap, gave her a 71 for the round.

Jeo Me Ae came in second with her even par 72 net score after carding a 78 gross score built around a 38 in the front and a 40 in the back nine.

Noriko Togawa settled for third place with her 74 net. She came away with identical 39s in the front and back for a 78 gross. Togawa, like her daughter Yuko, sports the club's lowest handicap at four.

Masayo Miyamoto (76), Gil AhKim (77), Young Mi Kim (77), Dolores Yamagishi (78), Yuko Togawa (79), Terry Guerrero (82), Lorraine Babauta (84), Kimiko Abe (85), Mio Kim (87), and Chang Eun Ae (93) also took part in the May competition. Nicki Bababuta and Mimi Catsro also played but their handicaps have yet to be calculated.

Established in 2007, the CWGA is a non-profit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI. The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, in addition to a bid into the two-day Ace of Aces Championship, while 14 points goes to second and so on down through the Top 10 place finishers; the remaining participants each reach one point. Its season traditionally starts in May and ends in April.

For more information, contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, or Dolores Yamagishi at 483-3195. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Triathlon back this Sunday

Triathlon action will be back this Sunday with Brad Ruszala organizing a race at Kilili Beach.

There will be two courses: sport and full. The sport course will start with a swim to the first tank and back (transition 1 and 2 at basketball court), while the bike leg will bring riders to PIC, COP, and Airport Road and have them turn left to Guandong Hardware and left again along Tagaman course and back to transition 2. The run part will be up to the World War II Japanese tank on Beach Road and back.

For the full course, swimmers will go to the first and second tank and back to transition for the bike leg, which will have riders cruising Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point, Airport Road before turning left to the Dandan Shell gas station, the As Lito Road past Guandong Hardware along the Tagaman course and back to the transition. The run leg will be to as far as the Garapan Fishing Base and back.

"There is a special opportunity for people who just want to race the bike course. Cyclists may also challenge the sport or full bike course. The bike-only course will start soon after the last swimmer leaves the transition area. Will have prizes for top riders of each race," Ruszala said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Ruszala added all participants will get T-shirts, while medals will be given to the Top 3 finishers. Individual and team participants are welcome and raffle prizes will be awarded at the end of the race.

Registration starts at 5:30am, while the race begins at 6:30am. Entry fee is only $10. ***(PR)***

MCDONALD'S

From Page 32

for the third out.

The Falcons nailed the two runs in the low-scoring game at the bottom of the third inning with Angel Iguel stealing home and Max Pangelinan having a sacrifice fly to bring in Paul Heo.

The Falcons-McDonald's winner-take-all finale will be played at 11am after the 9pm battle for third place between the Rockies and the Enforcers.

LAZARO

From Page 32

prevailed over Kanata Omori, 21-17, 21-14; and Kevin Park thwarted Joyce Mavirick, 21-18, 21-10.

In the doubles, the pairs of Jen Savellano and Ezekiel Macario and Janelle Pangilinan and Jexler Caranto both needed three games to beat Villaflor and Panapa Peteru, 20-21, 21-15, 21-13 and Alma Ortega and Gary Bandoja, 20-21, 21-19, 21-16, respectively.

Marlene Peraja and Macoi Aguda also went the distance in downing Windy Fernandez and Brandon Talania, 20-21, 21-14, 21-11, while the two remaining doubles matches were decided after only two games. Diane Francisco and Ariel Nodado trounced Farro and Park, 21-11, 21-16, while Talania and Obata whipped Shirley Kim and Jerry Tan, 21-10, 21-13.

C&J

From Page 32

C&J Signs managed to steal the win after recovered from a lackluster performance in the second quarter. C&J Signs logged only 9 points in the second quarter, turning a 17-12 advantage at the end of the first period to a 36-25 halftime deficit.

Tony Diaz then started the second half with a triple and he went on to nail C&J's last 8 points in the third canto to move his team within five, 50-55. Moises chipped in 5 in the third-quarter recovery.

Diaz and Moises continued to hit their target in the fourth canto and also drew help from Mendoza to keep Typhoon/Triple J within striking distance. Typhoon/Triple J then held the lead for the last time, 73-71, off a split from Yosh Gabaldon before Guiab's inside shot in the closing seconds forced the standoff and sent the game into extra five minutes.

Moises then began the extension with a triple and knocked in another field goal late in the game, while Guiab and Mendoza added 3 points apiece to complete the come-from-behind win. Typhoon/Triple J had only two players scoring in overtime with Bruce Berline nailing back-to-back baskets and Mike Sablan chipping in 2 points.

Meanwhile, two playoff games in the 30A division are set for this Sunday with Wawawindz taking on 8 Division at 6pm and High-Five meeting CCS at 8pm.

C&J Signs International 84 – Mendoza 21, Diaz 18, Fernandez 13, Moises 13, Guiab 11, Manabat 2, Valencia 2.

Typhoon/Triple J 79 – Berline 21, Palacios 20, Gabaldon 8, Lizama 8, Pineda 8, Galulu 6, Alvarez 2, Duenas 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-12, 26-35, 50-55, 73-73, 84-79.

Sports Legends of Micronesia out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A book about the history of sports in Micronesia and the region's notable athletes for the past six decades and their accomplishment is now available in select locations.

Sports Legends of Micronesia, authored by a Micronesia sports legend himself, Dr. Kurt Barnes, can now be bought at Best Sellers at the Joeten Shopping Centre in Susupe. Copies will also be sold at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library tomorrow when Barnes holds another book signing, while the book will be available, too at amazon.com starting this weekend.

Barnes held the first book signing at the amphitheater of the American Memorial Park through the help of Northern Marianas Humanities Council last week and the ceremony drew the attendance of some of the legends included on the book and members of the sports community.

"It's a great book. I am happy that someone took time and a lot of effort to document outstanding athletes not only of the CNMI, but across Micronesia. It is an honor be included in the book," said CNMI Sports Hall of Fame Rick Duenas.

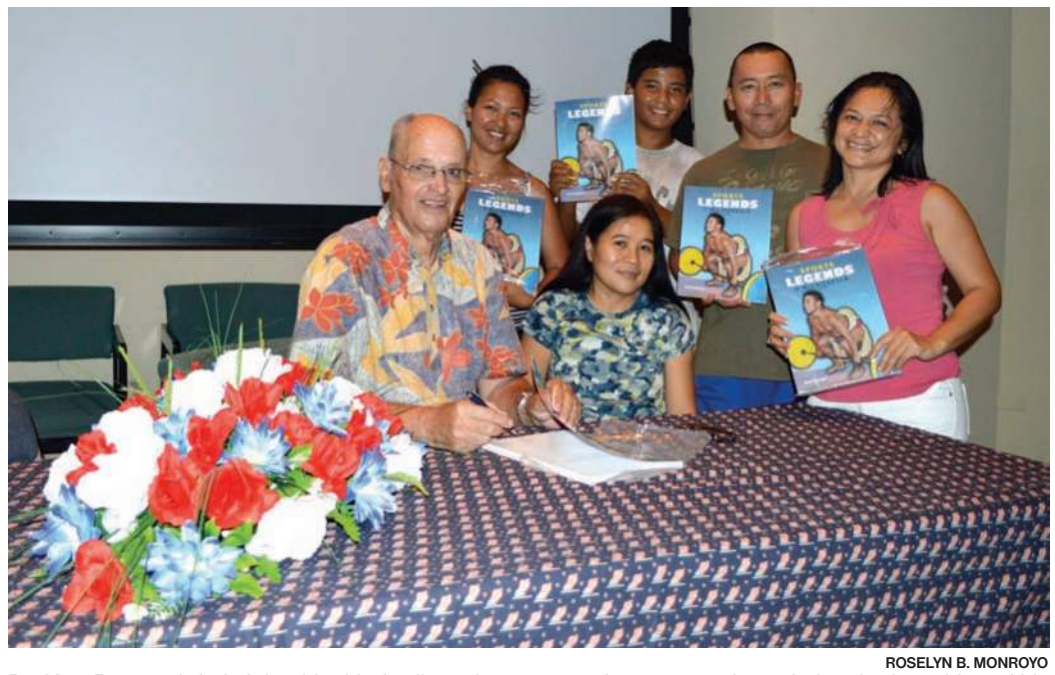
"People don't know what we did during our prime. I hope that this book and the accomplishment of past athletes like us did during our time will inspire the future generation, who are very lucky to have the available facilities, funding, and technologies to improve their skills. It will also show the rest of the world the existence of top Micronesian athletes," Duenas added.

Kathy Palacios, who attended the launching with her family, said the book will give a sport newbie like her an idea on how former athletes in the CNMI excel during their time.

"This is a piece of history that I would like to share to my family because we may be related to some of the legends," Palacios said.

For his part, Barnes thanked those who appreciate the hard work he put into the more than 200-page, full-color book and those who helped him complete this project.

"I would like to sincerely thank all the legends for their cooperation in making this book a reality. Without these sports icons posing for pictures and providing their bios, the book would not have been a reality. I began this project three years ago with interviews of athletes in Palau and the CNMI. I'm sure that some athletes I initially talk to about this book gave up after a while since the book took so long to be printed. It certainly wasn't an overnight project. The end result had to showcase the best that each legend has contributed to sports in Micronesia," Barnes said.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dr. Kurt Barnes, left, is joined by his family and supporters for a group photo during the launching of his book *Sports Legends of Micronesia* last week at the amphitheater of the American Memorial Park.

The author also made special mention of Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, another legend featured in the book.

"I was in total astonishment and admiration when Tan Ko walked into the theater for the book signing last Wednesday night. For a man who probably has given more years to making sports what they are today in Micronesia to provide his credence at a simple little book signing event will be remembered by everyone in attendance. For all to understand about Tan Ko, he is revered throughout Micronesia for his impeccable and immaculate stats that he has collected over the past 50 years. I speak for all sports people all across Micronesia, thank you, Tan Ko, for all you have done to provide data and stats in baseball and softball, not only for the CNMI, but for all of Micronesia," the author said.

For more information about the book and to order a copy, contact Barnes at dr.kurtbarnes@rocketmail.com or kurtproa@yahoo.com.

Anybody's ballgame in Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

There are now no pushovers or clear favorites in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League as shown in the team standings.

Dollar Days moved back to the top spot with its 5-2 record after whipping erstwhile leader Mobil, 108-76, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Mobil fell to a 5-3 mark and is in a five-way tie for second place with the Hoopaholics/PSS, Shirley's, DFS, and Docomo.

Docomo joined the logjam after prevailing over Kalayaan, Inc. in last Wednesday's second match. Kalayaan dropped to a 3-5 record and will not have to battle the last two playoff berths against Kanoa Resort (2-5), Mariana Resort (2-6), and Saipan Apparel (2-6).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Apparel's Mike Babauta, center, attacks the defense of PSS/Hoopaholics' Jerry Diaz during the second quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Saipan Apparel kept its playoff hopes alive after pulling off an upset over Hoopaholics/PSS in last Monday's second game, 70-68. Saipan Apparel held Hoopaholics/PSS to 9 points in the second quarter to take control of the match and hung in there in the second half to notch the important win.

Saipan Apparel led by only 4 at the end of the first, 26-22, but increased the advantage two twin digits at the break, 41-31, after limiting Hoopaholics/PSS to four field goals in the second canto.

Hoopaholics/PSS tried mountain a comeback in the second half, but Pete Lizama, Ed Diaz, and Syl Teregeyo alternately hit rally-halting baskets to keep the lead and the win. Lizama scored 23 points, while Diaz and Teregeyo chipped in 19 and 11, respectively. Peter Sablan nailed only 4 markers, but made all of them in the final canto to contribute to Saipan Apparel's cause.

In last Wednesday's first game, what was expected as a close match ended in a rout with Dollar Days drawing solid offense from Ivan Devero and Brandon Talania. Devero sizzled for 32 markers, while Talania added 27. Three other Dollar Days players scored in double figures to wallop Mobil.

Mobil absorbed a big loss after getting only 6 points from Jun Estolas. Mobil played without Marvin Rabauliman for the third straight time. Pando Muleta paced Mobil with his 21 points.

Dollar Days took an 18-9 win in the opening canto and pulled away in the second period, 51-36. Dollar Days scored 30-plus points in the second and third canto (33 and 31) en route to the 32-point victory.

Monday's Second Game

Saipan Apparel 70 – Lizama 23, Diaz 19, Teregeyo 11, Norita 8, Sablan 4, Babauta 2, Guerrero 2.

Hoopaholics/PSS 68 – Manibusan 17, Itibus 12, Cabrera 10, Villagomez 8, Tenorio 6, Diaz 5, Lauron 4, Mendez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-22, 41-31, 54-52.

Wednesday's First Game

Dollar Days 108 – Devero 32, Talania 27, Luis 15, Pantaleon 13, Bernardo 10, Joyner 4, Castro 2, Dungca 2.

Mobil 76 – Muleta 21, Babauta 15, Gamboa 12, Ruluked 8, Estolas 6, Galzote 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-9, 51-36, 82-55, 108-76.

Pangelinan dominates SBL awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The IP&E Fielders' Jordan Pangelinan will be the player to watch next season judging from the numerous awards he won in the 2013 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The third baseman was named MVP of the regular season, Rookie of the Year, and Golden Glove awardee (infielder) and won the doubles and RBI races. Pangelinan helped the Fielders finish with a 9-3 record in the regular season and stunned 2012 champion Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees in the semifinals to advance to the title series against the eventual champions Tan Holdings Brewers.

In the regular season, he collected a league-best five doubles and also ruled the RBIs category with 17, tying the Brewers' Jun Rabauliman.

Rabauliman got his second individual award when he took the triples king plum with his five triples, while the Yankees' Brian Camacho and Ben Jones Jr. won the home runs and runs races, respectively, logging two and 23.

Besides Rabauliman, two more Brewers players brought home more than one trophy. Manny Sablan got two as he was named batting champion for averaging .500 in the regular season and Catcher of the Year. Vince Cepeda earned three as he claimed the Strikeout Champion title with his 66 Ks and the Pitcher of the Year and Finals MVP plums.

Completing the individual awardees were ERA champion Tom Agulto of the Yankees and Golden Glove winner (outfielder) Ricardo Dela Cruz of the Fielders.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The IP&E Fielders' Jordan Pangelinan smiles after receiving his RBIs and doubles trophies during the awards ceremony in the 2013 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Silver Streak set on June 15

DFS Galleria will hold its 20th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run on June 15 and for the first time it will have two courses.

Dubbed the Silver Streak, the run will have a 7km and 10km courses. The 7K is the traditional course from the DFS Galleria to the Japanese tank along Quartermaster Road and back, while the 10K will turn around at the Oleai Beach Club school bus stop.

Check in begins at 5am and race starts at 6am. Registration is $10 and there will be T-shirts for the first 125 finishers.

Proceeds from this year's memorial run will go to Guma Esperanza.

In conjunction with the Silver Streak, DFS will also be holding the annual Hand-In-Hand for Haiti Charity and, something new, the Educathlon.

All moneys collected for these two races will be shared equally and the Educathlon proceeds will be given to MTEC (the Marianas Tourism Education Council), while the proceeds for Hand-In-Hand for Haiti will go to the school in Haiti that DFS helped to build and also helps to operate. Six-man teams will raise a minimum of $300 through pledges and pay a $60 registration fee to the Silver Streak.

For further information please contact Charlene Quitano at 236-2511 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. Registration forms can be picked up and payments made at the currency exchange booth inside the DFS Galleria on Beach Road in Garapan between 10:30am and 10pm beginning June 1. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

McDonald's vs Falcons in Major finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's and the Talaabwogh Falcons shut out separate semis foes to arrange their title showdown in the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball this Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

McDonald's notched a finals berth after blanking the Pinnacle Rockies, 10-1, while the Falcons had similar 2-0 shutout victory over the JPO Enforcers in the other semis pairing last Monday.

The McDonald's and Falcons title duel will be a battle between top and bottom teams. The Falcons finished the regular season in first place tied with the eventual pennant champion NSA Braves (13-2), while McDonald's placed eighth and was the last qualifier in the eight-team playoffs.

McDonald's was then paired against the Braves in the first round of the playoffs and pulled off an upset, 12-1, to advance to the semis against the Rockies.

In the Final Four, McDonald's picked up where it left off, as Sho Taguchi threw a no-hitter to lift his team to the win after only four innings. Taguchi had nine strikeouts and walked only one.

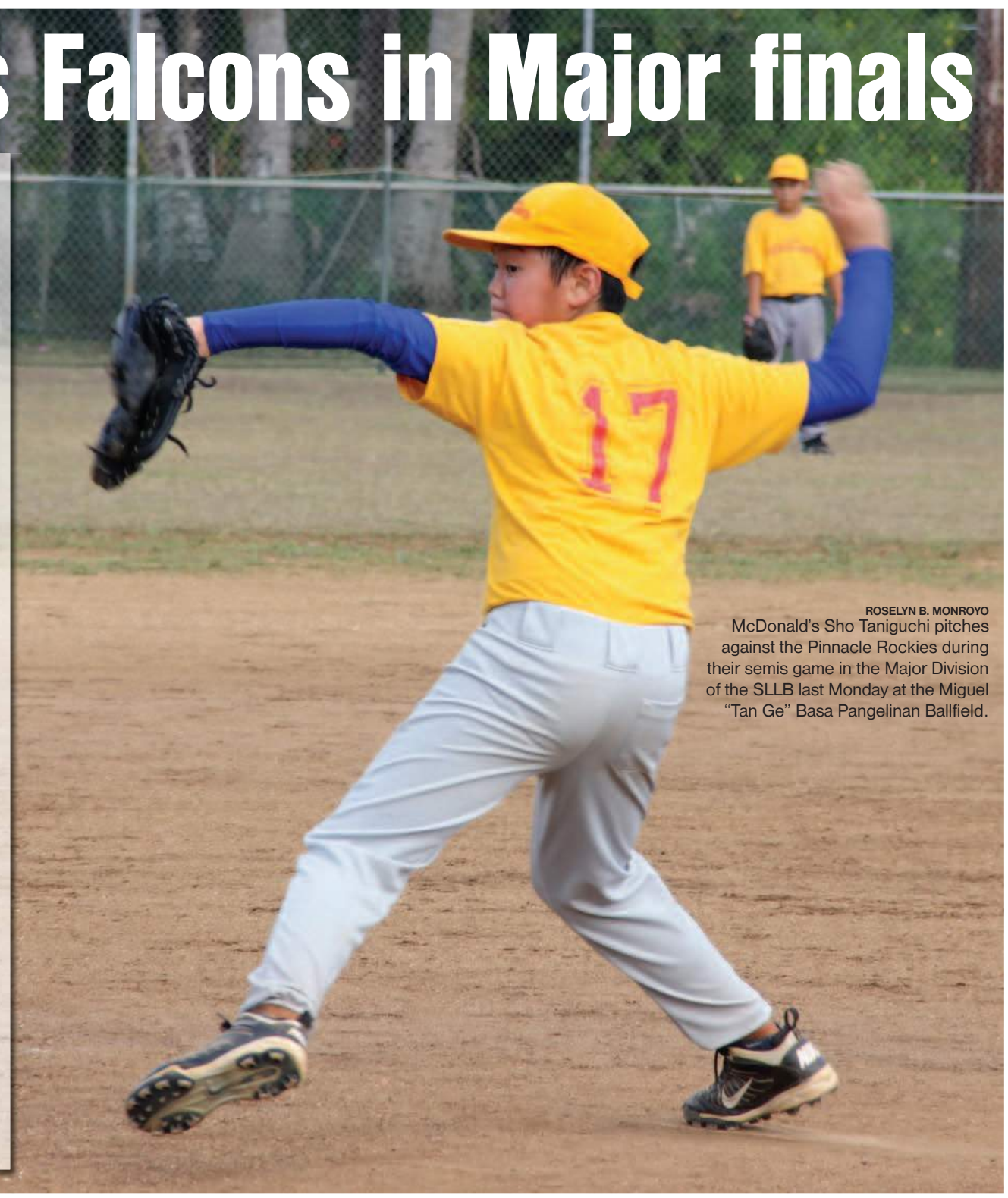
With Taguchi on the mound, the Rockies did not make it past first base, as they were done after only three batters in the first two innings and had Austin Ada stranded at first in the third when Dai Podziewski flied out to third base for the third out. Taguchi got two strikeouts early in the third and then started the fourth with back-to-back strikeouts before capping off his impressive pitching job catching a fly ball from Donavin Ada.

On offense, McDonald's got four runs each in the first and second inning to set up the easy win. Jaydan Tenorio went 3-for-3 for McDonald's, scoring three runs, two singles, and two RBIs.

In the other semis pairing, Falcons pitcher Jester Kintato also earned nine strikeouts and allowed only three hits to eliminate the Enforcer after five and a half innings.

The Enforcers had a chance to extend the game when it had runners at second and third at the top of the sixth with two outs, but Rico Lizama grounded on first

See MCDONALD'S on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's Sho Taniguchi pitches against the Pinnacle Rockies during their semis game in the Major Division of the SLLB last Monday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Lazaro, Agui unbeaten in mixed doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The pair of Rose Lazaro and Celso Agui are undefeated in Week 1 of the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament.

After downing Havika Farro and Kevin Park in the mixed C doubles' opener at the TSL Sports Complex last Friday, 21-20, 20-21,21-18, Lazaro and Agui made it two in a row after another three-game victory last Sunday against the duo of Bong Lagrazon and Rowena Sison. Agui and Lazaro dropped the first game, 18-21, but grabbed the win after sweeping the last two, 21-12, 21-20.

Sixteen other games were played last Sunday with seven singles matches won after only two sets and two more via forfeiture.

Hannah Choi swept Malou Malasarte in the women's A singles, 21-17, 21-11, while Jen Savellano handed Malasarte another beating, 21-16, 21-13. In the B singles, Toshiko Obata topped Merlie Tolentino, 21-17, 21-20, while Loida Ito won via default over Jen Cardinio, and Chris Obaldo slipped past Cristy Villaflor, 20-21, 21-19, 21-18.

In other singles results, Mykki Caracut defeated Lani Santos, 21-12, 12-21, 21-14; Jeremi Montenejo swept A.J. Ortega, 21-20, 21-20; Jeff Riman

See LAZARO on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rose Lazaro, right, makes a return, while teammate Celso Agui looks on during their game against Havika Farro and Kevin Park in Week 1 of the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

C&J Signs moves closer to Masters crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

C&J Signs International edged Typhoon/Triple J in overtime, 84-79, in Game 1 of their short title series in the 40A division of the 2013 Masters Basketball League against last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Game 2 of the best-of-three finals series will be played tonight at 7pm with C&J Signs aiming for a sweep and Typhoon/Triple J fighting for survival.

Junar Guiab made the game-tying basket in regulation and also contributed 3 points in overtime, teaming up with Ernie Moises and Edsel Mendoza in lifting C&J Signs to the 5-point win.

See C&J on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
C&J Signs International's Warren Villegas tries to steal the ball from Typhoon/Triple J's Bruce Berline during the third quarter of Game 1 of their title series in the 40A division of the Masters caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.